Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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POLICE STATIONS CLOSURE 'UNFAIR'

Report by Andrew Turton

POLICE station closures are 'unfair and unnecessary' according to an MP, after dates when doors will shut for good were confirmed.

Closure dates for 13 police stations in the Black Country have been confirmed as part of £8.6 million cuts — and Netherton in Dudley is first to go.

West Midlands Police is shutting 28 stations in total across its area. The Netherton police base will shut on January 31 alongside others in Wolverhampton and Great Barr.

Dudley station will follow on August 31, with Halesowen police station due to close on January 31, 2017. Kingswinford police station is also expected to close within the next 18 months.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said the the force had to take 'difficult decisions'.

But Dudley South MP Mike Wood, whose constituency covers Netherton and Kingswinford, said the move would have a major impact.

"There is no requirement for the commissionaire to pursue his plans to close stations in Kingswinford and Netherton," he said.

Listen

"I have said that closing two stations within my constituency was both unfair and now unnecessary.

"The Government, following representation from MPs like myself, has changed the formula for funding forces such as West Midlands Police and, as a result, its budget will not face any budget reductions.

"Therefore the reasons for closing any of the named stations is no longer viable and the Commissioner should do as the Chancellor has done – listen to representation and change his mind," said the Conservative MP.

Councillor Elaine Taylor, for Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews, Dudley, said: "We have been told the closure of our station is still happening but they are looking at having an office in the locality so the public still have that service and that presence in the area. We are keeping our PCSOs, which we are very happy about."

Commissioner Jamieson said: "Between 2010 and 2015 West Midlands Police was cut harder than any other force in the country which means we still have difficult decisions to make.

"My priority always will be people not buildings. Many people from across the political divide have realised this. The overriding view of police professionals is that officers, not buildings keep people safe."

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin and Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis James Morris have campaigned against station closures. But Margot James, Tory MP for Stourbridge, has supported the move, previously saying that the closures would have 'minimal impact'.

'I STILL THINK ABOUT THE LADS WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT'

Royal Navy and D-Day veteran Joseph Bullock, aged 91, from Oldswinford, with his Chevalier Legion d'Honneur medal

D-DAY veteran Joseph Bullock has been presented with France's highest military honour.

The former Royal Navy man revealed how he had to fix the rudder on his own barge while sailing across the Channel to take part in the campaign to liberate France during the Second World War.

The 91-year-old was presented with the Chevalier Legion d'Honneur medal by Lieutenant David White during a Royal Naval Association Club meeting at the Stourbridge Royal British Legion Club.

Mr Bullock, of Rectory Garden, Oldswinford, was joined by his wife, Jean, sons Andrew and James, and daughters Rosemary Scriven and Carolyn Perry.

Mr Bullock was 19 when he joined the 160,000-strong force that stormed the beaches of Nazi occupied Normandy in June 1944.

But it was far from plain sailing for the teenager who was recruited to work on boats because of his skills as a carpenter.

He said: "After sailing for three or four hours we noticed something had gone wrong. I was asked to find out what was the matter and it was then I realised we didn't have a rudder. Everyone was sailing away but luckily a trawler came up alongside us and gave us a tow. We were able to drop anchor and my first job was to repair that rudder. Then we started repairing landing barges on the beaches."

Mr Bullock went on to see service in Singapore and Malaysia before being demobbed in 1946.

He said he was very proud to receive the medal but added: "I still think about all the lads who didn't make it. They deserve this just as much as me."

SECURITY

Pupils evacuated due to bomb hoax

A SCHOOL in Halesowen and three schools in Sandwell were evacuated after they received hoax bomb threats on Tuesday.

Police attended Leasowes High School in Halesowen, Bristnall Hall Academy, Oldbury Academy and Holly Lodge in Oldbury but, following searches, West Midlands Police said that no bombs or suspicious objects had been been found.

Dudley Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We can reassure parents that the situation was dealt with quickly and safely."

ACCIDENT

Motorist dies after sports car hits tree

A DRIVER died after his sports car crashed into a tree and lamp post near Stourbridge.

Other motorists attempted to save 24-year-old Lee Wassell, of Clee View Road, Wombourne, following the crash on the A458 Bridgnorth Road, near Stourton, but he was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

Floral tributes have been placed at the scene of the accident, where his Subaru Impreza crashed at 12.50am on Saturday.

HONOUR

Tree planting tribute to Holocaust hero

A TREE will be planted in Mary Stevens Park to honour the Stourbridge man dubbed 'the British Schindler'.

During the 1930s Major Frank Foley worked as a passport controller in the British Embassy in Berlin and issued travel documents so Jewish families could escape Nazi persecution. He also hid people in his home and it is believed he saved more than 10,000 Jews from the gas chambers.

Somerset-born Major Foley died in 1958 in Stourbridge, the town he called home after the Second World War. The civic ceremony takes place at 11am on January 30.

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Council pay out £380k in injury claims

DUDLEY Council has paid out more than £380,000 to people on injury claims since 2013, new figures reveal.

The cash-strapped authority received 609 claims from 2013/14 to the present date, with 121 of those claims successful.

In total, the council has been forced to hand out £387,411 in that period.

The biggest claim was on July 5, 2013, when the authority had to pay £18,120 for a break or fracture caused by a pothole.

The council faces huge financial challenges in the next five years and has just revealed a second tranche of budget savings to contend with.

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood said the cash pot paid out was money the council could ill afford to spend and needed to be reduced.

Cabinet member Councillor David Sparks said the council worked hard to ensure the borough was safe and clean but could not prevent 'unavoidable' incidents.

Councillor Brothwood claimed the extent of the injury payouts suggested a lack of investment by the authority. He said: "I think this is a reflection of the poor investment from the council into our roads and pavements. I know money from central Government has been made available but not a lot of it seems to have been spent in the borough.

"I think the level of money paid out is a consequence of not improving the roads and pavements at the same time – instead of doing one then coming back to do the other," Councillor Brothwood added. "It's far more cost effective to do them all at once. I would far rather that £380,000 had been spent on improving Dudley borough's roads."

Finance boss Councillor Sparks said: "We work hard to ensure the borough is a safe and clean place to be but obviously there will be unavoidable occasions where incidents can happen. We have a robust process in place to evaluate claims coming in to the council, and where we are found to be at fault, those cases are dealt with appropriately."

Sisters hurt by dog attacks on same day

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl and her sister were attacked by a dog, suffering injuries within hours of each other, a court heard.

The girls were both bitten by the Akita/Husky crossbreed, one of two dogs owner Susan Russon handed over to police following the incidents.

Russon, aged 32, of The Beck, Netherton, pleaded guilty to being in charge of a dog allowing it to be dangerously out of control and causing injury.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the girls, whose mother is a friend of Russon, had been fussing the dog when it turned nasty.

Defence barrister Stephen Hamblett told the court about the incident on July 2. He said: "Her friend has two young daughters and they were all at her house. One of the dogs attacked her two-year-old, and she had two small cuts. She was taken to hospital at around 2pm.

Judge

"They returned later that day at 6pm. Her other daughter, who was seven at the time, was fussing the dog, as children do. The dog then bit her. She sustained two cuts on her chin. She didn't go to hospital."

Judge James Burbidge was shown pictures of the injuries. The attack happened close to Russon's home.

Mr Hamblett told the court that Russon had handed over both dogs to police.

Judge Burbidge told Russon: "I take into account that you have pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.

"You had no reason to believe that the dog would attack in the way that it did in the first instance, although it could be argued you should have done more as a precaution to stop the second attack from happening. I have seen the injuries and they are nasty looking injuries.

"I understand that you are friends with the girls' mother and you have shown remorse . But you must be punished. It hasn't been said whether the older of the two girls will suffer from scarring. But she could suffer psychologically when confronted with a dog in the future. I understand you must be a dog lover, so giving them up must have been very difficult for you."

He sentenced her to 70 hours community service.

King Arthur is put to the sword

Going going... 1930s Dudley pub the King Arthur pictured midway through the demolition process

A LANDMARK at a gateway to Dudley has been demolished to make way for a supermarket.

The 1930s roadhouse King Arthur pub, next to the Birmingham New Road, has been knocked down to clear the site for a new Aldi store.

Residents have long been split over the fate of the locally-listed building, which closed down as a pub in 2012 and had become an eyesore after it became a target for vandals.

The future of the site was sealed by planning bosses last year after heritage groups had declined to come to its rescue.

Councillor Alan Finch, who has overseen the planning process, said: "It is sad to see the King Arthur pub go, but I think it's fantastic for the local community to have a new outlet to go to.

"There is nothing like this (supermarket) around the Castle and Priory area. We are looking at new jobs for the local people."

Supermarket giant Aldi stepped forward with plans to develop the site last year, creating 40 jobs.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin asked residents living near the pub whether they backed the supermarket plans. Out of more than 900 respondents, 80 per cent said yes.

But Sedgley Councillor and UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge raised a petition with 102 signatures calling for the pub to be retained.

The pub was built in 1939 by Dudley architects Webb and Gray.

Last chance to sign up for energy auction bid

DUDLEY residents have only got just over a week to register for an energy auction that council bosses say could save them hundreds of pounds on their bills.

More than 5,000 people have already registered with the Big Switch campaign backed by Dudley Council.

The more people who register for the auction, the better the deal offered by energy companies.

The last auction attracted nearly 800 people and 98 per cent of them made savings.

The closing date for the latest auction, in which the public join together to get a better deal, is February 1.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "As a community council, we are extremely pleased with this successful initiative which is free and easy to join. Our Big Switch auctions are able to secure energy rates that are not available direct from suppliers or price comparison sites."

"Anyone who signs up is under no obligation to switch suppliers, but with savings of an average of £300 a year, more and more people are seeing the benefits of switching to this collective way of buying energy."

The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter or people paying for dual fuel or gas and electricity separately, and those with a fuel debt of £500 or less. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk and search for Big Switch or call 0300 555 2345 for details.

Lawyers choose MND as charity

BLACK Country law firm George Green has chosen the Motor Neurone Disease Association as the charity it will raise funds for during 2016.

MND is the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning. The disease affects up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time. It is a fatal progressive disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, attacking the nerves that control movement. The association funds research, as well as funding specialist equipment and support grants for people diagnosed with MND.

The law firm will be participating in various events to raise money for the charity including its own Walk to D'feet, a walk from the firm's office in Cradley Heath to its office in Wolverhampton.

Proposal for flats at care home site

A CARE home in Dudley will be turned into flats, under new proposals before planners.

The plan for Beech Tree House Care Home, in Himley Road, has been submitted to Dudley Council by developer Mohammed Ali.

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Sainsbury's looking to take over Argos chain

THREE Argos stores in Dudley borough could be closed and jobs lost as Sainsbury's looks to take over the retailer and relocate sites within supermarkets.

The shops on Dudley High Street, the Merry Hill centre and Halesowen's Cornbow centre are all under threat.

Sainsbury's made the revelations after it set out its case for a £1 billion-plus takeover of Home Retail Group, which incorporates both Argos and Homebase. The bid deadline is February 2.

In a presentation outlining its plans, Sainsbury's said it would look to shut a number of the 734 units in the Argos chain and bring them into its supermarkets as concessions.

Sources close to Sainsbury's believe between 150 and 200 Argos shops could be impacted and that places all 16 in the Black Country and Staffordshire under threat.

Dudley councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "I hope these stores are not under threat because they seem to be doing well. Argos in Merry Hill is big and one of the major stores. Dudley is vibrant and my hope and wish is that it won't be under threat. The same for Halesowen."

Deputy leader, Councillor Judy Foster, added that she welcomed Sainsbury's bailing Argos out if it was in trouble but that she hoped they would opt to save the three local shops.

There are already 10 Argos concessions in the supermarket chain in the UK as part of a trial.

Injured passenger no longer critical

A MAN badly hurt when a van hit a tree in Dudley is no longer in a critical condition. Two men — the driver and front seat passenger — had to be cut free from the Ford Escort after the smash in Clee Road, which was closed for several hours following the accident at around 1.30pm on January 6.

Two back seat passengers, women aged 44 and 38, were also injured.

The 37-year-old driver is recovering in hospital, whilst a 35-year-old man was originally in a critical condition but was said to be improving.

Sergeant Paul Hughes said: "It is important that we piece together the events leading up to the collision."

Anyone with information should contact the Collision Investigation Unit on 101.

Main entrance at park to be closed

THE main entrance of a Stourbridge park will be closed this weekend while resurfacing work takes place.

The work is outside Mary Stevens Park in Heath Lane. Access is available via the Stanley Road entrance.

Brighter future after church revamp

Rev Stuart Scott at St John's, Stourbridge

A £16,000 scheme to repair and upgrade a Victorian church in Stourbridge has been hailed a success.

But fundraising will continue to further improve, protect and modernise the grade II listed St John's United Reformed Church.

The project to repair parts of the church in the town centre at St Johns Road was funded by various grants.

The work saw repairs to internal parts of the roof at the 1860 building, transformed the vestry into a meeting room, upgraded lighting and saw heating and electrics checked.

As well as being a place of worship, the building is used as a venue for events such as art exhibitions, plays, concerts and the town's foodbank.

Landfill

Funding for the work came from The Veolia Environmental Trust, which awarded £8,670 through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Also contributing to the church repairs were Dudley Community Forum, which awarded £5,000, and the Joseph Scott Chapel Charity, which gave £2,000.

The congregation plan to continue fundraising so repairs can be carried out on the external part of the roof and to developmcommunity space.

Reverend Stuart Scott said: "This important work has enhanced our grade II listed building and contributed to its long-term sustainability."

He added: "The new meeting space will be used by a variety of organisations, including the foodbank.

"We can now look forward to a brighter future."

Chiefs bring in new head to improve school

EDUCATION bosses at Dudley Council have said they will work 'relentlessly' to turn around a crisis-hit primary school in Stourbridge.

Ham Dingle Primary School, in Pedmore, has entered special measures after being rated as 'inadequate' by Ofsted.

A troubleshooter has been brought in to try and raise standards at the failing school.

The inspection revealed a rift between the headteacher, who has since resigned, and her staff. New consultant headteacher Jacqui Grace has been drafted in to try to turn around the failing school.

An inspection of the school revealed a 'broken' relationship between the outgoing headteacher and governors and 'disharmony' amongst staff. The head at the time, Joanne Davies, had lost the support of much of the teaching staff, the education watchdog said. She left the school a few weeks after the inspection in November.

Safety procedures were also criticised with Ofsted stating safeguarding and child protections are not effective.

Ms Grace, who has just taken over the beleaguered school, said there had been a 'breakdown' in the relationship at senior level but said she was confident she could turn its fortunes around.

Challenges

She said: "Clearly there are challenges in the school because of what is written in the report. The two main issues are safeguarding and the problems with the breakdown with the leadership. The leadership issue is pretty much resolved."

She added: "I am really proud of the staff here. They have responded really positively to my arrival. I have already made a number of significant changes and lots of parents are telling me it's a happier place."

Councillor Ian Cooper, education boss at Dudley Council, said: "We acknowledge the findings of the report and have immediately set about putting right priority areas highlighted in it. Officers supporting the school are putting together an action plan. We will work relentlessly to ensure these issues are resolved.

"A new chair of governors has already been brought in and the head teacher has resigned. A new head teacher with experience of taking on such challenges is now in post and keen to move the school forward.

Car flipped over on icy road

Firefighters with the car that ended up on its roof in Pedmore Road, as icy conditions took a toll

A CAR flipped onto its roof in Stourbridge during icy conditions on Saturday morning.

Firefighters were called out to reports of an accident at around 9.30am, with crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attending the incident at Pedmore Lane.

The hatchback was the only vehicle involved in the accident and none of the occupants were trapped.

In High Street, Dudley, a pregnant woman was witnessed falling. Eye-witnesses described seeing two women fall within quick succession of each other.

Afterwards people phoned Dudley Council asking them to grit the road, which took place shortly before 11am, nearly an hour after the women fell.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills: "We are aware of an incident in the town centre this morning which was caused by freezing temperatures and snow. Clearly the council cannot grit every footpath in the borough but we do try and make public areas as safe as possible but would ask people to be careful."

Major routes through the Black Country were badly affected by crashes throughout the day. There was tailbacks along the Birmingham New Road following a two-car smash near Sedgley Road West, Tipton.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roof man rescued and then arrested

A MAN had to be rescued from a roof in Upper Gornal.

Passers-by alerted emergency services when the man was seen on the property in Jockey Fields at around 3pm on Friday.

A 22-year-old man was arrested after a four-hour stand-off with police.

A cordon was set up around the building and a section of road closed to traffic until the incident ended peacefully around 7pm.

A man was arrested afterwards on suspicion of criminal damage and affray.

Four homes on old garage site

FOUR homes will be built on the site of former garages in Coseley, after plans were given the green light.

The two-bed houses will be constructed between Mars Close and Priory Field.

The garages have already been knocked down.

A council officer's report said: "The proposal respects the character and distinctiveness of the area, making a positive contribution... through high-quality design without harming the amenity of existing or future occupiers."

Have butchers at apprentices

A BUTCHER has joined forces with Dudley College to enrol apprentices on a new 'Trailblazer' course.

Walter Smith Fine Foods became the first employer to register three of its apprentices on the Butchery Trailblazer apprenticeship programme, approved by the Government. It is the first Trailblazer to be delivered by Dudley College.

To find out more contact Sanjeev Ohri on (01384) 363 335 or email sanjeev.ohri@dudleycol.ac.uk

New hedges were laid at Wren's Nest reserve

THE Friends of Wren's Nest were joined by the Friends of Alder Coppice to carry out hedge laying at the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve in Dudley.

More than 20 people of all ages took part in freezing cold conditions on Saturday morning and they were provided with expert tuition by the Wren's Nest wardens provided the expert tuition.

● Geopark bid — page 9

Centre Sherlock show

A KINVER drama group's latest play is a story about the Great Detective.

Sherlock Holmes and The Mystery of Mallen Hall by The New Kinver Players is at the Edward Marsh Centre from February 10 to 13. Tickets cost £9, £7 for over-60s. Buy at www.nkp.org.uk or call (01384) 877746.

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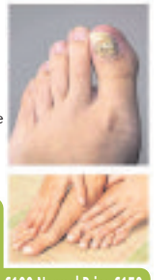

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

BACK in the days of churchgoing, assemblies, sing-songs in the pub and sea shanties around the school piano, we learned how to hold a tune in our heads. The Brits could sing. This week, in the massive media overkill that marked David Bowie's passing, some TV and radio reporters invited members of the public to sing their favourite Bowie hits. And what a dire, off-key caterwauling ensued. What a tuneless nation we have become.

A SURVEY of grass-roots Labour supporters reveals the party has grown, moved to the Left and thinks its new leader is great. I'm not sure if this tells us anything except that Jeremy Corbyn has a lot of support – among his supporters.

A READER points out that although the immensely entertaining Dickensian (BBC1) is set in the deep mid-winter with snow crunching under foot, no-one has frosted breath.

THANKS for all your items on the subject of chucking out a favourite pair of old shoes. Most were funny tales. And then suddenly this: "In 1971 I bought new black shoes to walk my wife-to-be down the aisle. Forty years later, in 2011, after much wear, repair and polishing, I wore the same shoes to walk her coffin again down the aisle. You can't put a price on all the memories a much-loved pair of shoes can hold."

A READER tells me he phoned his local radio station to be told he was the first caller of the day and thus qualified for the mystery grand prize, if he could answer one simple maths question. By chance, he has a degree in mathematics. The prize was two front-row seats at a Justin Bieber concert. The crucial question – what is two plus two? Without a moment's hesitation he replied: "Potato." I'm not sure I believe a word of it, but I never entirely dismiss the conspiracy theory that the chief purpose of local radio is to rot the nation's brains.

WHY do some doctors have such a downer on booze? One suggestion this week came from health writer Tony Edwards. He says some research suggests moderate drinkers are less likely to suffer from a wide range of diseases. But as he puts it: "The job of doctors is to help sick people rather than healthy ones, so they inevitably see the casualties of alcohol, never its beneficiaries." So most doctors will see alcoholics dying of liver disease while never meeting the moderate drinker who enjoys a glass of wine a day and, inexplicably, never catches a cold.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Councillor backs teen ban to ease fears

A BAN on teenagers at a Stourbridge town centre car park, which has been plagued by vandalism and anti-social behaviour, could finally bring its problems to an end, says a councillor.

A Public Space Protection Order has been introduced at the multi-storey Ryemarket car park, prohibiting under-18s from entering the car park unless driving a vehicle or accompanied by a responsible adult. Councillor Nicholas Barlow said he hoped the move would put a stop to the issues that have given the car park a bad reputation and may lead to it being open at night again.

He believes many motorists have been put off from using it for fear of their vehicles being damaged. In October, council bosses decided to shut the car park at night to combat the problem but it was felt that further measures were needed.

Councillor Barlow said: "They have got to explore every option available under legislation and it has to be brought forward to give them the strength to deal with these groups which have been causing problems on the Ryemarket car park.

"It has to be looked at and implemented to see what feedback we get and what the impact is. We need to use whatever powers possible. We need to reassure the public their cars are going to be as safe as possible.

"The car park is there for people to park their cars safely without the thought of having whatever number of people congregating in a corner. It may be they are just admiring the views of Stourbridge but it's just that fear factor."

Bid to raise taxes is branded 'ridiculous'

By David Cosgrove

DUDLEY Council has been accused of 'sleepwalking off a financial cliff edge' after plans to raise council tax by 3.99 per cent for three successive years were revealed.

The cash-strapped authority unveiled proposals to help slash a black hole in its funding from £50 million to just under £21m.

Opposition councillors have criticised the Labour-run council, saying the budget plans fail to fix underlying problems. But council bosses said the authority was facing difficult decisions due to a reduction in Government funding.

Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "We would support one council tax increase this year as we've had five years with no increase. But I think it's ridiculous to propose to do this for three years.

"This council has refused to deal with the reality that local government needs to change. They're sleepwalking off a financial cliff edge."

Last week the council revealed plans to increase its share of council tax by 1.99 per cent and take up a Government offer to increase it by a further two per cent for adult social care, bringing it to 3.99 per cent. This works out to be an extra 77p per week, or £40.04 per year, for people living in Band C properties.

Bus

Council chiefs said residents would continue to pay the lowest council tax rates in the region.

UKIP's Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "It's a lot of money to ask residents to pay, and the big problem is it hits people on the lowest incomes the most. There have been years of mismanagement which have led us to this point."

Now the leader of Dudley Council is to ask taxpayers for their views — by getting on the bus. Councillor Pete Lowe will be travelling around the borough on public transport on Wednesday, January 27, speaking to passengers about services.

Clean up begins on waste mountain

DUDLEY COPYRIGHT EXPRESS&STAR TIM THURSFIELD 14/01/16

AFTER years living in the shadow of an ugly mound of rubbish, it at last looks like the nightmare is ending for Brierley Hill residents.

Work has started to prepare for the removal of the huge piles of waste from a compound in Moor Street which was occupied by Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF).

The rubbish mountain at one time grew to a lofty 40 feet, making it clearly visible as it towered over nearby homes. That resulted in High Court action and company director Robert McNaughton served a jail term for failing to remove it.

Last week contractors moved on site to begin the initial work on a task that will take several months and will cost the landowner an estimated £750,000.

Resident Linda Jones said: "It has been a eyesore for what seems like forever. It will be good to see it gone."

Fellow resident Geoff Clarke said: "It has been a long-time coming, almost six years. But to now finally see that something will be done about this is great news. Dudley Council has already given approval for houses to be built on the site as well, so it will be a distinct improvement once the rubbish is out the way.

"Greenery has been growing out of the mound that made it look like a mountain. I know that everyone will be pleased that the clearance is finally taking place."

Dean Rutter, from contractors Ammanford Limited South Wales, said: "The work to clear the site will be getting underway this week."

Free return tickets for visitors to winter zoo

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo in January and February will receive a free return trip.

Bosses say it will enable people to see the attraction at different times of the year.

Curator Richard Brown said: "The zoo changes so much during each season that we wanted to encourage visitors to come and see it for themselves.

"During the winter months it's much quieter on site, the trees are bare and those animals who are native to colder climates are more active — whereas during the height of summer the zoo is bustling, the gardens and blooming and different animals are enjoying the warmer weather."

The return ticket will be valid for six months from the visit date and an original receipt from the January or February visit will be needed.

Meanwhile, the zoo has revealed that ,ore than 2,200 people filed into the Castle Hill attraction in the week between Christmas and New Year, which is almost 800 more than the same week in the previous year.

Attendance was at its highest on Monday, December 28, which was a bank holiday, and Tuesday, December 29 when more than 1,000 crammed into the zoo, which celebrates 80 years next year.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "We've seen a year-on-year increase of December school holiday visitors and we're delighted with these latest figures and glad so many people enjoyed the chance to explore the zoo."

Museum recruiting £50k-a-year chiefs

THE Black Country Living Museum is recruiting two new deputy chief executives as a major revamp of the attraction gets under way.

It comes after recent figures showed that visitor numbers were up eight per cent at the Tipton Road attraction in the last 12 month, raking in an extra £500,000 towards new development.

The two new deputy chief executive roles will focus on visitor engagement, operations and collections, learning and research, with salaries starting at £50,000 a year.

Bosses say that the new vacancies have been given new titles for what were previously directors.

Vicki Stanley, who is deputy chief executive of development, explained: "It will give much clearer leadership and management of the museum."

Betrothed couples can visit wedding venue

COUPLES are being offered the chance to have a look around Himley Hall and see if it is the wedding venue for them. A free open day will be held on Sunday, between 11am and 4pm, when future brides and grooms will be able to tour the historic hall.

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More than one in three 11-year-olds overweight

MORE than a third of children leaving primary school in the West Midlands are obese or overweight, according to latest statistics.

Figures from the National Child Measurement Programme show around 36 per cent – around 23,500 – of Year 6 children in the region are obese or overweight, which is above the national average of 33.2 per cent.

In Wolverhampton, 26.3 per cent of Year 6 children were classed as obese. Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley were slightly lower with 24.5, 24.4 and 24.3 per cent respectively.

The British Heart Foundation has now called for a ban on all junk food TV advertisements before 9pm, as part of the Government's Childhood Obesity Strategy to help improve children's health.

Current regulation means foods high in fat, saturated fat, salt and sugar are banned from being advertised during children's programming.

However, with Ofcom figures showing 65 per cent of children watch TV between 7pm and 8pm, children are being exposed to adverts which promote unhealthy snacks, the heart charity claims.

Mike Hobday, of the British Heart Foundation, said: "It's worrying that so many children in the West Midlands are obese or overweight. Carrying excess weight into adulthood increases the risk of developing heart disease in later life. We need to protect young people against the sophisticated marketing techniques of junk food advertisers."

Violent incidents on region's buses

ASSAULTS, harassment and threats – more than 2,000 acts of violence took place on buses in the West Midlands over the past five years.

The figures, obtained through a freedom of information request to West Midlands Police, show that the number of violent crimes on buses has been decreasing.

There were 480 in 2010 but this had decreased to 383 in 2011. It went up slightly to 385 in 2012 before dropping to 363 in 2013, 357 in 2014, down to the last recorded figure of 319 last year.

Superintendent Kerry Blakeman said: "We have an excellent partnership with Centro, British Transport Police and we have dedicated Safer Travel Police Team."

Chance to have a say at forum

THERE will be a meeting of the community forum for Dudley Council's Kingswinford North and South, Wall Heath and Wordsley wards at Kingswinford Royal British Legion, Summerhill, on February 2, 6.30pm.

Lucky couple win their wedding day

Going to the chapel — Natalie and Chris

A COUPLE have been crowned winners of a Black Country win a wedding competition after receiving more than 25,000 votes from the public.

Natalie Davies, aged 30, of Pensnett, and Chris Williams, 27 of Wednesbury, beat three other finalists to win the white wedding package worth £6,000.

They will now start planning to get married in the historic and newly-renovated grade-II listed Lye and Wollescote Chapels, near Stourbridge, which have been renamed the Thomas Robinson Building.

The chapels have undergone a £1.2m restoration and will become the registration office for civil ceremonies.

Customer service advisor Natalie and warehouse worker Chris couldn't believe their luck after Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho announced their names at the chapel on Thursday.

Natalie said: "I can't believe it, it's absolutely amazing. I can't believe people of Dudley have voted for us, we are so grateful we can't really put it into words, I cannot thank everyone enough for voting for us. I've took a lot of inspiration from my grandmother and grandad, who were married 55 years.

"Unfortunately grandad died last year, but for us to win this it's almost like he was looking down on us."

On April 2 they will be driven in a 1933 Rolls Royce to the wedding as part of the package, which also includes a wedding breakfast for 40 guests at The Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill, a makeover for the bride and a wedding gown worth £1,000.

Rogue traders guilty of harassing elderly

BOSSES at a roofing firm have been found guilty of harassing customers with their sales tactics.

After a four-month trial, Summit Roofguard Ltd director Sarah Beadle was found guilty of 28 various counts of unfair, misleading or aggressive commercial practices.

The jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court also decided the firm's co-director Martin Evans was guilty of 24 charges.

Summit Roofguard, which had an office in Birmingham, claimed to be the largest installer of fascias, soffits and guttering in the region.

The prosecution was brought by Dudley Council's trading standards after customers across the Black Country were targeted.

General manager Trefor Prytherch was found guilty of two counts, while employees Derrick Fisher and Glenys Bolton were each guilty of four.

They will all be sentenced in March.

The offences occurred between 2011 and 2014, and the court was told the firm had since ceased trading. The annual turnover of the combined company stood at almost £4 million in 2011.

Aggresive

One of the victims was pensioner Betty Tipper, of Brierley Hill, who was sold windows and guttering by Summit Roofguard to replace products installed just four years earlier. Beadle and Evans were found guilty of engaging in an aggressive commercial practice in regard to Mrs Tipper, who was plagued by phone calls from the firm despite her son John imploring Summit to stop contacting her.

Another pensioner targeted was 88-year-old Jack Hill, from Brierley Hill in a bid to persuade him to replace his garage roof unnecessarily. Beadle, Evans and Prytherch were all found guilty of engaging in an aggressive commercial practice regarding Mr Hill.

Evans, 58, from Lower Broadheath, Worcestershire; Beadle, 39, of Yew Tree Road, Moseley; Prytherch, 57, of Crawley, Sussex; Fisher, 64, from Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire, and Bolton of New Oscott, Birmingham, 64, denied the charges. Beadle was found not guilty of two counts, Evans of six and Prytherch of six.

Evans, Beadle, Prytherch, Fisher and Bolton will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 10.

Not guilty verdicts were found in all counts faced by Richard Ledwith, 38, of West Heath, and Nadeem Yasin, 34, from Hodge Hill.

Fan Steve kitted out for his book

Pictured at Molineux, fan and collector Steve Plant is writing a book about the history of the iconic Wolves shirt

A DIE-HARD Wolves fan from Stourbridge has set about documenting the history of the club's iconic shirts from 1877 to the present day.

Steve Plant, aged 54, started collecting Wolves shirts to show his father John after the latter was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given just months to live by doctors.

Seven years later he owns more than 300 shirts including those worn by club legends such as Steve Bull, Andy Thompson and Andy Mutch.

The collection is so large in fact he needed to have the loft of his Wordsley home reinforced after cracks appeared because of their accumulated weight.

He has now set about photographing a total of 106 shirts, including some from the club's museum, to feature in his book They Wore The Shirt, to be published later this year in a limited edition of 2,000 copies.

Steve, 54, said: "The Old Gold and Black is an iconic sports shirt. Everyone knows it around the entire world."

Steve can boast the shirt worn by Roy Swinbourne in the famous victory over Honved in 1954. His favourite was the first shirt he bought to show his late father, belonging to fans' favourite George Elokobi back in 2009.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Motorists alerted to delay on route

MOTORISTS are facing long delays on a busy route with roadworks expected to last until the end of this week.

Stream Road in Wordsley is being resurfaced and part of the carriageway reconstructed. The work is expected to last until Monday with stop-and-go signals directing traffic.

The road, which is a main route connecting Stourbridge and Wolverhampton, is regularly very busy with traffic during rush hour. Dudley Council warns that drivers are likely to face delays.

Volunteer drive for zoo project

MORE volunteers are needed to get involved with the Tecton Experience project at Dudley Zoo.

It follows the restoration of four of the historic concrete structures in a Heritage Lottery Fund scheme.

People of all ages are needed to get involved and volunteers will get free entry to the zoo. To find out more contact 0844 474 2272.

The zoo, which opened in 1937, has the world's largest collection of the modernist buildings from the architecture group Tecton, which had a major impact on 20th century design.

Nature reserve will host walks

MONTHLY gentle walks are being started up that will be taking in a Netherton nature reserve's woodland and sculpture trails.

The walks are being held on the second Thursday of each month at Saltwells Nature Reserve.

The next one on February 11 will start at 12.30pm from the Saltwells Lane car park. Each walk will be followed by lunch at the Saltwells Inn. To sign up contact senior warden Alan Preece on (01384) 812795.

Bowie tribute raising cash for cancer charity

GLAM rock tribute band the Major Toms will be celebrating the music of David Bowie with a special charity gig at Kings Heath pub the Hare and Hounds on Saturday night.

The band, which features several veterans of the Birmingham and Black Country music scene, will be performing the Ziggy Stardust album in full and then several of the late rock icon's most popular songs. Doors open at 7.30pm and admission is £10 on the door for Macmillan Cancer Support.

App-y day at Merry Hill

THE owner of the Merry Hill shopping centre has launched a new app to help shoppers. Intu Properties' intu app has details of all its shopping centres including intu Merry Hill. It offers maps, directions to individual stores and details of deals and offers available from them and Intu itself.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Why less is more for the film goers

QUENTIN Tarantino's new movie, The Hateful Eight, seems to be the film of choice for those in the know at the moment. The western, set in the aftermath of the American Civil war, lasts a bum-numbing three hours seven minutes.

It follows hot on the heels of Spectre, the longest Bond movie ever, at two hours 40 minutes. And of course, a few years ago there was War Horse, another acclaimed movie that was also the best part of three hours.

Whatever happened to the 90-minute film? It wouldn't be so bad, but you now have to sit through half an hour of trailers, non-smoking warnings, and threats of what will happen if you film the movie on your phone, before you even begin. As if you could record a three-hour movie on your mobile.

Besides, too many films these days seem to be filled with padding just to make them last longer.

Take Captain Phillips, for example, the film about the captain of a ship hi-jacked by pirates. The first 15 minutes was about his drive to work and fears for his son's future. Or the Kingsman, where half an hour was spent messing about with a light aircraft. Just get on with it.

Look, I'm not pining for the days of a B-movie to act as the warm-up, an interval in the middle to change spools, and a spot of Pathe news to keep us abreast of what is going on in the world. But I do think that an hour-and-a-half is long enough for any story, and if a film runs for as long as an ice-hockey match, then it should be edited more tightly.

■■■

I TRUST that you are now sleeping more soundly at night, after our lawmakers spent two hours debating why they did not want to ban Donald Trump from entering the UK.

The debate, if you can call it that, given that nobody apart from Alex Salmond was in favour of a Trump ban, was triggered because 500,000 of the professional malcontents who spend most of their lives moaning on Twitter and Facebook had signed a petition. Do these people never take a day off?

There is the small matter of the fact that the talking Shredded Wheat has never indicated any plans to visit the UK – he would probably struggle to find it on a map — but, hey, let's not that get in the way of a spot of student-union grandstanding. But next time, maybe the Twitterati might turn their attention to something that actually affects us?

■■■

ACCORDING to the latest healthy eating guidelines from the Department of Health, we are now expected to restrict ourselves to 30g of sugar a day, the equivalent of nine sugar lumps.

Except Chris Huhne, of course. He's letting the missus have his points.

Thin White Duke — Bowie on stage at Stafford in 1978

Tin Machine saw Bowie fronting a hard rock band at the Civic Hall

Bowie at the NEC, he brought several tours to the mega-venue

Starman memories left by icon Bowie

David Bowie influenced more than one generation via his music, fashion, art and ideas PETER MADELEY reports

IF it hadn't been for David Bowie, most of the rock stars, broadcasters and writers who made it out of the West Midlands would never have got started.

There would have been no Birmingham-based Duran Duran and no Black Country combo Pop Will Eat Itself.

Alternative music and new wave would have had as much chance of making it into the mainstream as avant garde jazz. The star who implored 'Let's Dance' was the starting point for three generations of artists.

His untimely death at the age of 69 robs us of one of music's greatest icons, a true innovator who ranks alongside The Beatles and Elvis ass being one of the most influential artists of all time.

Influence

Pop Will Eat Itself founder Clint Mansell, for instance, is presently one of Hollywood's most influential soundtrack writers.

But without Bowie, he'd never have started. He counts Bowie as the main influence on his musical career.

Clint, from Stourbridge, believes there have been 12 key moments in his life.

The first was his birth in 1963. The next significant episode was in 1972 when he saw David Bowie perform 'Starman' on Top of the Pops. The experience changed his life.

Clint's third key moment came that year when he bought his first album 'The Rise & Fall of Ziggy Stardust'. After that, he was only ever going to be a rock'n'roll star.

Jonn Penney, whose band Ned's Atomic Dustbin, followed Pop Will Eat Itself and The Wonder Stuff into the charts and onto the stages of the nation's biggest festivals, has a similar debt of gratitude to Bowie.

Jonn, from Wolverhampton, said: "To be honest, I kinda feel unqualified to comment on Bowie," he said. "He's so iconic. He's such a genius. What can I say about him? I guess the thing about Bowie is what he stood for; whether that was intended or not. He was utterly unique.

"He made it okay for people to plough their own furrow, rather than follow the herd. He sort of ratified that, he justified it too. But beyond that, he showed everyone that the best music they can make is the most honest music."

Slade drummer Don Powell, who grew up in Bilston, said he was fortunate enough to meet The Thin White Duke at a gig at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall in the early 1970s.

"I managed to get backstage and explained to him that the first record I ever bought was Space Oddity (Bowie's album from 1969).

"I was shocked because for someone so famous he was very unassuming and quiet, almost to the point of being shy. It is all very sad. We've only just lost Lemmy and now Bowie. Two of the greats gone in the blink of an eye."

West Midlands music producer Pete Waterman said: "Bowie was as important to pop music as The Beatles. He was extraordinarily talented. The Let's Dance album to me is one of the greatest pop albums of all time, every bit as good as Sgt Pepper."

Mr Waterman, a veteran of 26 Bowie live concerts, added; "He was a showman who was able to wrap a simple pop song up into something completely different.

"He was just amazing. I only met him twice and found him incredibly quiet."

Wolverhampton author Caitlin Moran broke down in tears during a Bowie track on BBC Radio Two's Jeremy Vine show.

She said: "This is such a sad day. It feels like someone's taken the core out of the Earth."

"As a child of my generation he seemed to be everywhere."

Bowie played numerous iconic gigs around the Black Country, Birmingham and Staffordshire, including three nights at Stafford's Bingley Hall in June 1978.

Some recall him appearing at venues in Birmingham and Wolverhampton in the 1960s before he found fame, and support slots for Marc Bolan's band T Rex and Humble Pie, the group fronted by former Small Faces singer Steve Marriott.

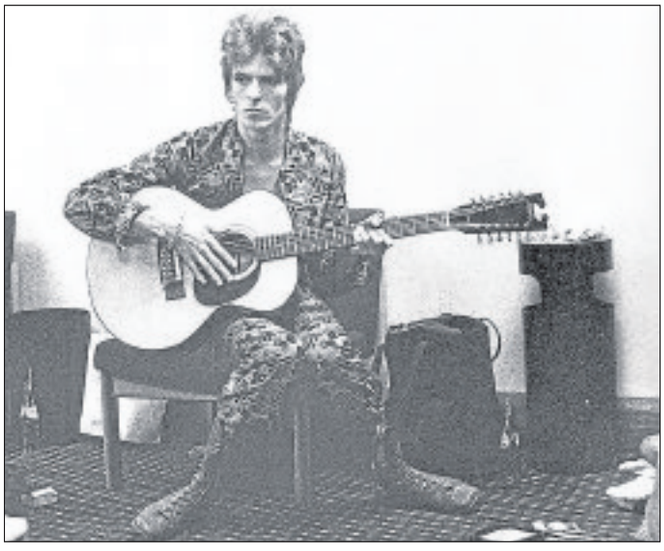
He graced the stage at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, firstly in 1973 on the Ziggy Stardust tour and later with his hard rock band Tin Machine in 1991.

He also performed at Birmingham Town Hall in 1970s and at the NEC during the 1980s and 90s.

Reality

In 1997 he was a surprise addition to the bill at the Phoenix Festival held at Long Marston Airfield near Stratford-upon-Avon and played a low-key gig at Birmingham city centre's Que Club.

He appeared finally in the Midlands as part of his A Reality Tour in 2003. That tour was cut short when Bowie had a heart attack, which began his withdrawal from concert performances. The singer's death was announced last Monday, just two days after the release of his 25th album Blackstar, when it was revealed that he had been battling cancer for 18 months.



Ziggy played guitar — Bowie in a reflective moment backstage at Birmingham Town Hall

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Keep those wandering moggies on a tether

HAVING read the recent reports of cats being poisoned or going missing, things may not be as bad as they seem.

About nine years ago, we had to have our cat put to sleep following a stroke. Because of our ages and general health, we decided on no more animals, as they would probably outlive us. However, this was not to be.

Soon after, a kitten roughly four months old, turned up on the front step. In spite of attempts to find the owner, nobody claimed her, so we had acquired another cat.

As we have always lived on main roads, our cats have been on collar or harness with a longish length of rope so that they could be tethered and not wander.

About seven years ago, our neighbours moved but said that they could not take the cats, so we purchased a dog kennel for them to live in. Gradually they moved indoors. Nil to 3 cats, without trying. About 18 months ago, a black and white male cat arrived and took up residence in the kennel, until he too, moved indoors. Cats now 4.

Quite recently, a ginger and white male cat has turned up and decided that this is home. We are also visited by two blue cats and a black one with a red collar. We have no idea to whom they belong, but they seem to think that we run a cats café.

We would love to know to whom they belong, or have they just been left when their owners moved. Much as we love animals the cost of feeding them is now more than feeding ourselves. Why do more people not tether their cats? This would negate the fear of them being poisoned or catnapped.

L HALES
Cradley Heath

Rotary Club thanks for charity help

ON behalf of the Rotary Club of Sedgley & Wombourne, we would like to thank everyone in the Sedgley and Wombourne areas who contributed so generously to our annual house-to-house collections during December. Also the patrons of Sainsbury's Wombourne, Ashwood Garden Centre and the Co-op in Sedgley.

We are delighted to be able to report that we raised a magnificent total of just over £5,000. This wonderful achievement enables us to continue our important work of supporting many local charities and donating £500 to the floods appeal.

The total amount collected by area shows that £816.82 was donated in our house-to-house collections in Sedgley, £1,093.64 in house-to-house collections in Wombourne with a further £3290.89 at static collections at Ashwood, Sedgley Co-op and Sainsbury's of Wombourne.

TERRY WOOD
President Elect

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Moaning dog owners can like it or lump it

CAN someone explain to me why there has been so much coverage on this 'dog ban' at Himley Hall?

If dog owners don't like it they will just have to lump it – haven't they got better things to worry about?

I know that I have.

I laughed my socks off at a sorrowful photo of dog owners who will have to find other parts of the park to walk their dog, oh dear me what a shame. After all there are only about 200 acres or so, that's going to cause them a big problem isn't it!

Anyway, isn't 'dog ban' a huge exaggeration? When it really is just an area that is going to be 'dog free', and good news for a lot of the public I'm sure.

They even had the arrogance to think they should have been consulted! Who do they think they are?

Have the non-dog owners and those with children ever been asked if they are happy about things?

Can I make a suggestion? If you are so bothered about your little darlings getting their exercise and being let off their leads — why don't you try your own back gardens then?

A BLAKE
Dudley

Floods — shame of the drains

FURTHER to the letter from P Cole (Chronicle Letters, January 7), It's simple — clear drains, I can only agree with his comments.

When you think of all the blood, sweat and tears that went into constructing these drains by hand without any mechanical equipment, just picks and shovels in Victorian times.

P Cole is correct in that not many years ago the drains were cleaned out every other week.

Now Bridgnorth Road in Wollaston is like a raging river after the lightest rain fall and all of the water collects at the bottom of the hill within the shopping area.

Dudley Council should be ashamed of themselves for letting this situation continue.

Come on Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council — get your finger out and do something about this.

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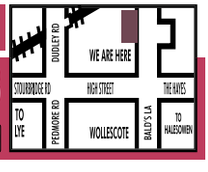

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Sweeping through the silence

Amblecote History

CHAIRMAN Pat Martin welcomed members to the final meeting of 2015 at the Ruskin Centre and the 12th Christmas party.

Pat then started off the 20 question quiz. Whilst teams conferred and wrote down their answers there was a general hush of concentration in the room until the loud exclamation of a shabby looking stranger broke the silence … "where's my son, have you seen my son?" resonated around the room.

On closer inspection, the man could be identified as Stan Hawthorne the Amblecote chimney sweep who had been engaged to provide some light entertainment.

Stan had been sweeping chimneys for 42 years and he went on to tell amusing anecdotal tales of his experience, including how he had found quite a few things from dead ducks to trapped pigeons and more seasonally a letter to Santa from a young boy, Jonathon, who wanted a new bike and a book for Christmas – the well preserved letter was passed around the audience.

Pat thanked Stan, presenting an Amblecote History Society certificate as a formal record of his presentation.

She then made a presentation to Joyce Robins who was retiring from her position of treasurer, the Society bestowing upon her Lifetime Honorary Membership.

The prize for the winning photograph in the recently announced competition was in her absence awarded to Joan Kendrick.

Lodge confirmed as permanent home

Speaker Clive Garner, treasurer Sandra Chappell and Chairman, Mary Jones

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

THE first new year luncheon, on Friday January 8, was chaired by Mary Jones who wished 31 members a happy and healthy 2016, welcoming back long-standing member Pat Chance after a long absence.

The chairman was also pleased to confirm that The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley would now be the club's permanent home and thanked the directors and general manager for making them so welcome.

The three-course meal and service was excellent and so was speaker Clive Garner who demonstrated the art of silk painting.

He explained the preparation and processes needed before painting, how to apply it and even how to cover up any mistakes.

He had brought along a selection of items already completed if members wished to purchase them.

Ann Rogers was looking into the possibility of a visit to Himley Hall for a tour and afternoon tea and asked for help in finding parking for future coach outings.

The AGM is on Friday, February 12 and by speaker, by popular request will be John Sparry, on local characters.

In March the speaker will be local historian Chris Smith.

Moseley Old Hall talk topic

Wollaston E TWG

THERE was no business conducted at the December meeting as it incorporated the annual Christmas party.

Members enjoyed a buffet style meal, organised by the committee, with the chairman Jean Latham overseeing the arrangements.

Approximately 70 people sat down, including members and visitors from neighbouring guilds such as Kingswinford, Norton, Oldswinford, Grange and Federation.

The evening concluded with a raffle. The occasion was considered a success, and thanks on behalf of the visitors was given by Jean Williams of Federation. The guild's choir performed carols at services at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, and at Cobden Street Methodist Church, Wollaston. Both occasions were well attended.

Meetings are at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston.

January began with Malcolm Astley giving a talk on Moseley Old Hall.

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Geological gems are in bid for global status

Once a coral reef in a tropical sea, Wren's Nest is an important geological site due to its huge range of fossils

A BID has been made to have the Black Country's hidden geological gems officially recognised worldwide.

If successful, the Black Country will be granted Global Geopark status and join a network of places of natural beauty, encompassing countries as diverse as Australia, Brazil, China, Austria, Malaysia and Italy.

The Black Country's application has now been submitted to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organistion.

Two sites highlighted in the bid include Dudley's Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve, where the cliffs are covered in vertical ripple bedswhich once lay under the sea, and is home to 700 different fossils — 86 of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Armada

Another example is Barr Beacon Local Nature Reserve, one of the original beacon sites that warned off the approaching Spanish fleet the Armada, when England was threatened with invasion by Catholic Spain in the Elizabethan era.

Barr Beacon has a quarry that provided much of the sand and gravel that built Birmingham and is scarred by a deep valley created at the end of the last Ice Age, 20,000 years ago.

There are 109 Global Geoparks in the world, ranging from Torbay and the Scottish Highlands in the UK, to volcanic sites in Iceland and Japan.

Council chiefs say it will boost the local economy and will provide a host of new opportunities for learning.

A scrutiny visit from UNESCO and the Global Geopark Network is expected during spring or summer and the final outcome of the application will be announced in the autumn.

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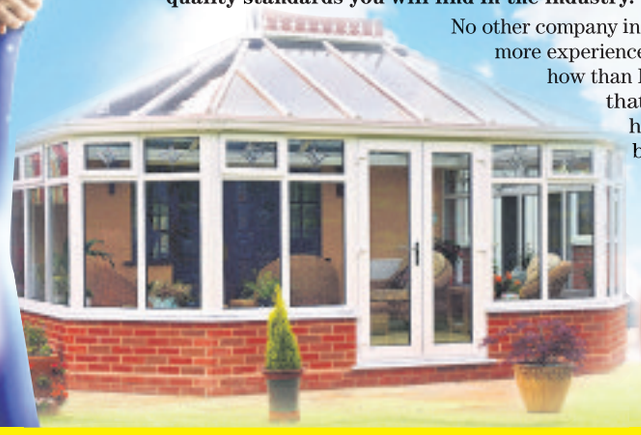

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Hammer terror as shop raid is caught on camera

THIS is the moment masked men burst into a petrol station shop, putting two women shop assistants in fear for their lives.

One of the raiders, 26-year-old Ashley Fay, from Dudley, leapt on the counter armed with a claw hammer and shouted repeatedly for the location of a safe.

One of the women suffered a broken arm when she was pushed to the floor by Fay when she tried to escape.

Shrewsbury Crown Court was told that the other woman thought the men were going to kill her.

Fay and one of his accomplices, 36-year-old Stephen Dale, from Tipton, are now in jail after admitting their roles in the robbery at the Wheatland petrol station in Much Wenlock, near Telford.

Dale, who was not in possession of a hammer, also jumped over the counter during the raid at 9.40pm on September 27, 2014.

Another man, who has not been identified, was also seen brandishing a hammer.

Two of the three masked raiders were brandishing hammers during the raid

Stephen Dale – jailed for 44 months

Ashley Fay – leapt on to the counter

Ran

The men took £466.03 in cash and £293.67 worth of cigarettes.

Mr Charles Crinion, prosecuting, said while they were taking the items the two assistants attempted to run away but Fay ran after them. He pushed one of them to the floor. The victim suffered a broken arm requiring surgery which has left her without the full range of movement.

The court was told that the pair had been identified when police found Dale's finger prints on a roll of black bags in a stolen VW Golf used in the robbery. Police also found a glove with DNA matching Fay in the car.

Sentencing the pair last week, Recorder Nigel Daly said it has obviously been a frightening experience for the two ladies.

Fay, of Hillside Road, Pensnett, was jailed for 59 months. Dale, of Bernard Road, was jailed for 44 months.

Fay was said to have a number of previous convictions for car theft and burglary. Recorder Daly also heard that Dale has 37 convictions.

Mr Graham Arnold, for Fay and Dale, said that both men were now looking to turn their lives around. He described Fay as remorseful and Dale as someone who wants to start his life again.

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Credit union is to scrap its cash over the counter service

COUNCIL bosses have promised members of a credit union in Dudley they will still be able to access their money after its over-the-counter cash facility was scrapped.

Critics say the changes at the Castle and Crystal Credit Union in New Street will hit the poorest families in the borough hardest.

The facility, run by Dudley Council, provides saving accounts for members and allows them to borrow cash from others. Officials have reassured members they will still be able to access their savings despite no longer having the option to physically withdraw cash from the union building. he changes are due to come into force from April.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Castle and Crystal is not closing. This is about a change to our cash withdrawal services. Members are still able to access their savings in many other ways and other services will continue to run as normal.

Transfer

"There are a number of other ways in which members can access their money, including online and telephone banking or a BACS transfer to a nominated bank account.

"Alternatively people can purchase a prepaid card which enables them to withdraw cash from an ATM machine, can be used online or to get cash back, free of charge, from supermarkets."

Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge has hit out at the prepaid debit card costing £3.50 with additional costs every time withdrawals are made at cash machines.

Councillor Etheridge said: "Some of these people rely on their last couple of pounds to get them through to their next payday or benefits payment.

"This is just one more inconvenience and cost for the poorest members of our society."

Wings and Wheels show is grounded

AN annual air show which raises thousands of pounds for charity is in jeopardy after bosses at Halfpenny Green Airport, near Stourbridge, pulled out of hosting the display.

Organisers of the Wings and Wheels shows – held at Easter and August bank holidays – have been left 'absolutely devastated' by the decision.

The shows raise money for air cadets, scouts and other charities, and help to fund Tettenhall Museum of Transport Trust, which now also faces an uncertain future.

Event organiser Vaughan Meers said: "I'm shocked and absolutely devastated by this decision. To pull out at this late stage, when it takes months to organise a show."

Around 5,000 people flocked to last year's two-day August event which featured The Red Arrows and raised £9,000 for charity. Mr Meers said they had been planning a special show this year to mark its 75th anniversary of the former wartime airfield.

Pool dredged in park revamp project

The dredging of the pool at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge continues to make it more habitable for wildlife

IT'S a painstaking task but one that it is hoped will create a haven for wildlife at a popular park.

Workers have been dredging the pool at Mary Stevens Park, in Stourbridge, as part of a multi-million pound improvement project.

The scheme is one of a series being carried out at the park to return it to its former glory.

Fish were removed from the pool when work started last year. A heavy build up of silt had been affecting wildlife at the pool.

Old bikes, batteries, shopping trolleys and radios were among the items found in the pool by salvage teams as work got under way on clearing the pool.

A mechanical digger has now been positioned on a floating pontoon to allow it to float out into the pool to lift silt from beneath the water.

Dozens of fish were removed from the pool to allow the work to start.

Councillor Hilary Bills, who is in charge of environmental issues in the borough, is pleased with the work.

"The reason it is being done is because there was sludge stuck on the bottom of the pool," she said.

"Hopefully it will be a lot healthier once it is finished. All the fish were rescued at the time. They will be going back into the pool."

The £3 million park revamp has been made thanks to grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

A range of projects have already been carried out as part of the scheme which is expected to be completed this summer.

One thousand steel jobs are under threat

BLACK Country steel jobs could be at risk after Tata announced more than 1,000 roles will be axed as part of widespread cuts in its nationwide operation.

Around 750 jobs will go at the company's huge plant at Port Talbot, South Wales, but another 200 in 'support functions' also face the axe.

A Tata Steel spokesman said the firm could not rule out job cuts at the major Steelpark distribution centre at Wednesfield, where most of the company's 600 Black Country workers are employed. He said a 45-day consultation process being carried out nationwide would determine where jobs will be cut.

The Wednesfield site handles steel produced at Port Talbot, as does the company's smaller operation at Brierley Hill, which has a railhead directly linked to Tata's South Wales steelmaking plants.

As well as the 750 Port Talbot roles and 200 support jobs, 100 positions are to be cut at steel mills in Llanwern, Trostre, Corby and Hartlepool.

Karl Koehler, chief executive of Tata Steel's European operations, said: "I know this news will be unsettling for all those affected, but these tough actions are critical in the face of extremely difficult market conditions which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future."

History group reveals the real War Horses

THE Real War Horse will be the subject of the next meeting of Wyre Forest Historical Research Group.

Robin Hill will be describing how, for the last time, the armies in the First World War relied on horse power and there was an equine call-up with an impact on every farm and estate.

The talk will take place at The Corn Exchange in Kidderminster Town Hall, at Vicar Street, on Thursday, January 28, from 2pm.

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Guide dog Natalie shows MP the way for charity

Dudley North MP Ian Austin takes a blind-folded walk in Dudley town centre with guide dog Natalie and team leader Andy Guiel

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin took to the streets blind-folded to promote the work of the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Mr Austin, who has joined a new Parliamentary group on sight loss, was led by Natalie the Labrador in a bid by the Sedgley-based charity to highlight the challenges blind and partially-sighted people face on a daily basis.

The Eye Health and Visual Impairment All-Party Parliamentary Group works to inform MPs about treatment and support for people suffering from sight loss and blindness. The Dudley Labour MP has joined it to help promote the Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley, which provides specialist services and support for people with visual impairment.

Mr Austin has previously backed campaigns by the national Guide Dogs for the charity to improve blind people's access to support and services.

Experience

He said: "It was an unbelievable experience. I think everybody should do this.

"You've got no idea what's around, what the obstacles are, where the traffic is, if there's something outside the shop. It's indescribable.

"People involved in planning town centres should do this before they do the work."

He added: "The Beacon Centre for the Blind does brilliant work here in Dudley, so I will be working to promote them and speak up for local blind people."

Stourbridge MP Margot James also took part in a blind-folded walk to highlight the experiences a partially or fully blind person would have in a town. The Conservative MP said: "I was shocked at how different the experience made me feel."

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Taylor leads the linesman onto the pitch for the 74 World Cup Final in Munich

Trying to keep control over German and Dutch players

Taylor awards a penalty to Holland in the first minute of the World Cup Final

Jack Taylor in action

Jack Taylor in later years

Taylor-made to be a success

WORLD Cup Final referee Jack Taylor has become the latest Wolverhampton legend to be immortalised with his own biography.

The late Mr Taylor took charge of the 1974 final between West Germany and Holland and is among 222 people making their debut in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB).

He joins fellow famous Wulfrunians including Wolves and England defender Billy Wright, Wolves' most successful manager Stan Cullis and late Wolverhampton MP Enoch Powell in the list.

"It is a wonderful tribute," his widow Sue said. "I'm delighted that he is still remembered. He would be so honoured. Jack was a very modest man.

"He had such phenomenal success yet it never went to his head. He thoroughly enjoyed what he did, and he knew he did it well."

Mr Taylor's entry in the ODNB opens by saying that he left school at 14 after failing his 11 plus.

"Living above his father's butcher's shop, it was probably assumed that he would go into the business, although as a young man he was keen on horses with thoughts of becoming a trader," the biography continues.

"In the event, he did work in the shop, but it was

MEMORY LANE

By Nick Humphreys

football at the weekends that became a central life interest."

The progress of Mr Taylor was 'extraordinary' according to the ODNB. He was only 31 years of age when he refereed the FA Amateur Cup final between Crook Town and Hounslow Town in 1962.

In 1966, he refereed the FA Cup final between Everton and Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley, and then took charge of the 1971 European Cup final, between Ajax and Panathinaikos.

Three years later he was the man in the middle for the World Cup Final, awarding two penalties.

He received the OBE for services to football in 1975. Not bad for the lad from Staveley Road.

Once when Mr Taylor refereed a match at Luton Town, his face was cut when a fan threw a penny at him.

Legend has it that after the match, comedian and Luton fan Eric Morecambe went to see him to make sure that he was alright, and also to check that he wasn't going to report Luton for the incident.

When Mr Taylor confirmed that he wouldn't be reporting the matter, Morecambe replied: "Good, now can I have my penny back?"

Mr Taylor later became commercial director at Wolves and was also a Wolverhampton magistrate for 25 years. He was inducted into the FIFA Hall of Fame in 1999 and in 2013 became the first referee inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame.

He was 82 when he died of pneumonia at his home at Shifnal in July 2012.

Former referee Alex Hamil met Mr Taylor in the late 1950s when he was a young up and coming referee in the Wolverhampton leagues.

"Jack was already a football league referee by then," said Mr Hamil, 80, from from Ettingshall Park. "He took me under his wing and was always there to offer help and support.

"Jack didn't have an enemy in the world. He was loved and respected wherever he went. He produced some wonderful pieces of refereeing. But even when he was at the very top he never forgot his roots. He was a proud Wolverhampton man."

Mr Hamil recalls an incident during a Football League Referees Alliance meeting that he says sums up his old friend. "One of the national newspapers wanted to run a contest to vote on the best referee in the country," he said.

"Jack stood up and said he was completely against it, arguing that we shouldn't start picking out referees as we were all in it together.

"Everyone was shocked because we all knew there would only have been one winner....Jack!

"He didn't care about the personal accolades. That was his nature."

Wolves club historian John Hendley said Mr Taylor's latest honour was richly deserved.

"He was always renowned by the players as one of the best in the game," Mr Hartley said.

"If the players think you are the best then you must be pretty good, and it came from the best players in the world.

"In the World Cup Final that he refereed, he showed no fear in awarding the penalty in the first minute or booking the German captain. Both penalties he awarded were the right decisions.

"He also booked Johann Cruyff in that game. Cruyff didn't know that a Dutch linesman had taught Jack some Dutch swear words, so when Cruyff was swearing at him he knew exactly what he was saying.

"He was a very quiet man, a decent man.

"Jack was respected by everyone in Wolverhampton and this award is fully deserved.

"He was in it for the love of the game, not the money. He loved the game and loved it to be played properly."

He added: "At Molineux, the referee's room is named the Jack Taylor Room. It gives visiting referees something to aspire to.

"If they could become half as good as Jack was, they wouldn't be a bad referee."

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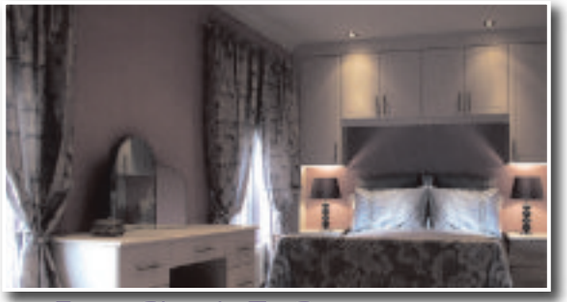
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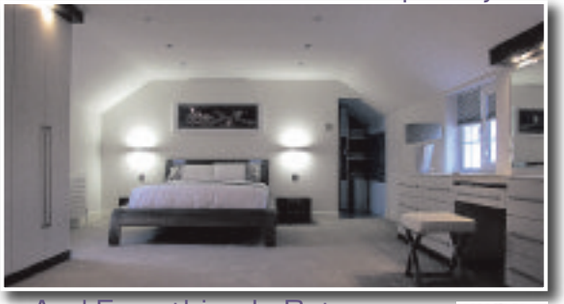
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Zoo chimps are not tyred of monkeying around yet

IT'S fair to say the chimps at Dudley Zoo won't be getting 'tyred' of their latest presents any time soon.

The playful primates have been given the old tyres off the attraction's land train to play with.

Dudley Zoo's popular locomotive, called Dotto, has been so popular with visitors over the busy festive period that it has needed a new set of tyres for 2016.

Rather than simply throwing the old tyres away, staff decided to send them to the chimp house where they knew they would be an instant hit.

The new tyres for the train have been fitted by Dudley Zoo's site service manager, Malcolm Clements.

He said: "The tyres we use on the train are stronger than your average car tyre, as it's quite a difficult path that it has to cope with, which is steep and bendy — not your average course for a (land) train of this type.

"The tyres are bigger than average too, similar to tractor tyres, and can't be bought off the shelf, so we have to order them in locally."

He added: "We change them regularly so are always testing different compounds to find which type works best, but we've always got two sets on site at all times, just because they're not readily available."

The tyres will make ideal sturdy toys for the chimps, or could even provide a comfortable place for the chimps to snooze.

The zoo currently has seven chimpanzees on site and they are called Mandy, Fanny, Barbie, Malaika, Binti, Mali and Banika.

For more information on the Castle Hill zoo and its attractions, visit www.dudley zoo.org.uk website.

Tyred out — one of Dudley Zoo's chimpanzees has a rest on an old tyre from the attraction's land train

£980k is spent on stubbing out habit

MORE than £980,000 has been spent in one year helping nearly two thousand smokers across Dudley kick the habit, figures show

Up to £520 was spent on each smoker aiming to quit in Dudley during the 12-month period.

In Dudley there were 1,887 successful quitters and the total spend was £980,345.

Health boss Councillor Rachel Harris said: "Smoking causes more preventable deaths than anything else and treating smoking related diseases is estimated to cost the NHS in Dudley £12.2m and the NHS nationally £2 billion each year.

"The Dudley Stop Smoking Service offers cost-effective, high-quality, evidence-based stop smoking interventions. These are delivered by specialist advisors who provide expert advice, support and encouragement to help local people stop smoking for good."

She added: "I'm proud of the success achieved by this service in Dudley. Supporting people to quit for good not only rapidly benefits their own health but also that of those around them."

Sex crime victims face a wait for counselling

VICTIMS of sexual violence are having to wait up to nine months to speak to a counsellor about their ordeal.

The number of victims referred to support services in the West Midlands has doubled to more than 5,000 a year since 2010.

The wait has been exposed by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson who has vowed to slash waiting times in half.

By Rob Golledge

Alethea Fuller, who oversees victim support at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, said support services were struggling to cope with demand.

She said: "West Midlands data indicates that as a result of the increase in demand, specialist agencies are experiencing pressure on existing services as volume increases by up to a quarter in the last year.

Risk

"As victims come forward, good-quality, safe services are needed to act quickly and appropriately if they are not to be put at greater risk.

"The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor service offers support that is required, they can refer victims for counselling, assess needs and decide what type of support is required.

"The increasing demand on specialist sexual violence services has resulted in significantly longer waiting lists for counselling, currently between six to nine months for all specialist agencies across the region."

Mr Jamieson's office took over responsibility for victim support last April.

He has launched a Victims Commission to bring together experts to advise how to deliver services.

He said: "This year alone, I have allocated grants of more than £2 million to support thousands of victims across the West Midlands.

"One of the main priorities is supporting the victims of hidden crimes, such as domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, female genital mutilation and forced marriage."

"In these cases, we are often looking at the most vulnerable and isolated members of society and it is paramount that we bring these crimes out into the open. As a result of the work of the Victims Commission, I have been able to fund £320,000 to help tackle sexual violence here in the West Midlands this past year; £50,000 to fight Female Genital Mutilation and £110,000 to support the victims of so-called honour-based violence."

He was developing a Vulnerable Citizens Portal to identify those at risk.

Candle oil garage destroyed by fire

A GARAGE storing scented candle oils in Halesowen was destroyed when a fire broke out.

Fire crews from Oldbury and Haden Hill were called to the property in Hurst Green.

Six firefighters fought the flames for an hour and eventually put it out at 9.30pm on January 12.

Oldbury Fire Station tweeted that its fire crew had literally come out 'smelling of roses' after returning from the incident

Matthew Smith, spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "The garage, which was about six metres by eight metres, was completely destroyed by a fire.

"Six firefighters with breathing apparatus used two reel hoses and one main hose.

"The fire started when a naked flame spread to barrels containing candle oil, which was being stored in the garage."

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More than 4,000 on bike courses

MORE than 4,000 people have taken bicycle training and maintenance courses since they were launched two years ago.

Organisers are now urging more people to get involved as part of a campaign to reduce congestion on the roads. It is part of a programme, run by Centro, part of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

The programme has already promoted cycling in the Black Country through the 'Bostin Bikes' scheme. This gave people the chance to try out new bikes with the option of buying them at a discount after training.

Councillor Judith Rowley, lead for fair and safe transport on the West Midlands Transport Delivery Committee, said: "We've had a great response with cycling in this area. As well as the health benefits for people, there are real rewards in cutting traffic congestion and carbon emissions."

Find out more at www.mynetwork.org.uk/blackcountry and there will be flyers delivered to homes during February.

It's a relief that trouble pub is shut, say nearby residents

THE decision to close a pub in Dudley which has been plagued by violence has been welcomed.

Nearby business owners and residents have spoken after the The Earl of Dudley Arms, in Wellington Road, was shut down by police until the end of March.

The pub was closed by senior officers after police were called to the premises more than 60 times over the last two years, with the premises being described as a hotbed for serious crime involving gangs.

Incidents including wounding and robbery were listed among crimes reported at the pub and in December a man was badly beaten. olice said the owners had failed to protect customers by 'allowing members local gangs to frequent the premises'.

Dudley's Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Public safety is of paramount importance and reading reports of what's been going on at the pub, it's fair to say I feel pleased it has been closed if such incidents are true.

"It is quite shocking people have been put at such risk and as a ward councillor, my main concern is the protection of their health and safety.

"We now have a three-month period to work together to resolve this issue, but nothing should jeopardise the safety of the public."

A nearby business owner, who did not wish to be named, said: "It's been a big problem for everyone in this area and I feel the safety of local people has been put at risk. It's a relief that this notice has been served."

A resident of 20 years, who also did not want to be named, said she 'avoided the pub at all costs'.

The pub was shut down at the end of December and will remain closed until the end of March after a closure notice was granted at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court.

The Earl of Dudley Arms

MP's backing for governors

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has joined a group promoting the role of school governors in turning schools around.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education Governance and Leadership aims to get more people involved in schools. Mr Austin wants education to be made the number one priority in the Black Country.

He said: "Getting people involved in their local schools as school governors is an important way of making schools accountable to local people and driving up standards.

"Local schools like Ellowes Hall, Dormston and Priory Primary are brilliant examples of how well schools can perform if governors, parents and the whole community get behind heads and teachers working hard to make improvements."

Terror for family as car 'petrol bombed'

Worried Rik Freeman, of Dudley, is moving his family out

TRUCK driver Rik Freeman is moving out of his home in Willow Road, Dudley, after his car was petrol bombed.

He said he had been targeted by yobs two years ago, who had slashed his and wife Tracey's tyres on several occasions. The incidents stopped after he installed CCTV cameras a year ago, until the the early hours of Saturday morning when his daughter Demi-Leigh was woken up by a flash. A hooded arsonist was seen on camera running away after the hatchback was set ablaze shortly before 3.30am.

Mr Freeman, 50, who described himself as a 'hard grafter' who gets on with everyone, said he had no idea why they were being targeted.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man took his own life after losing job

A MAN who was found dead in undergrowth at a park committed suicide after being made redundant from his job, an inquest heard. Russell Baker had been looking for work for around a month since losing his job as a machine operator last month.

Mr Baker, who was in his 50s, and lived in Spring Avenue, Rowley Regis, told his wife Paula that he was planning to hand deliver his CV to businesses when he left the house on January 5 this year. He was reported missing by his wife later that day with police officers conducting an extensive overnight search.

His body was a found at Warren Hall Park a day later, on January 6, after policed tracked the location of his mobile phone. A post-mortem carried out by pathologist Dr Suhail Muzaffar concluded that Mr Baker died from asphyxiation due to suicidal strangulation.

In an inquest at Smethwick Council House, senior coroner for the Black Country, Zafar Siddique, concluded that Mr Baker took his own life and gave a verdict of suicide. He said: "I would like to pass my heartfelt condolences onto the family and friends of Mr Russell Baker at this difficult time."

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Charity golfers club together to help baby unit

HALESOWEN Golf Club's Captains, Brian Coldrick and Elaine Povey, had a very busy year both on and off the course as golfers clubbed together for charity.

At the start of the year they nominated the Neonatal Unit at Russells Hall Hospital as their Captains' Charity.

The set a target to raise a minimum of £3,000 to purchase a phototherapy unit for the treatment of prematurely born babies with jaundice — but managed to raise more than double that amount.

Sponsorship

Their hard work in organising various golf and social fundraising activities certainly paid off with the generosity of club members, donations and sponsorship from local businesses boosting the fund.

Brian and Elaine visited Russells Hall Hospital to hand over their proceeds of £7,055.40 to the staff in the Neonatal Unit, who were very grateful to Halesowen Golf Club for all of their efforts in 2015.

The medics asked the captains to pass on their thanks to everyone that had contributed towards such a magnificent donation.

Now the 2016 Captains, Ralph Dicker and Audrey Parry, have announced Halas Homes as their charity for this year.

Halas Homes is a Halesowen-based charity that has been caring for people with learning difficulties for more than 50 years.

Captains at the club also include Senior Captain Steve Wagstaff and Junior Captain Dan Povey.

Halesowen Golf Club captains Brian Coldrick and Elaine Povey with the cheque for the hospital's neonatal unit

In Harmony with firm's move to new base on estate

AN events and conferences services specialist has moved its operations to the West Midlands from Hampshire.

Harmony Audio Visual has relocated from Andover, Hampshire, to the Black Country after finding the ideal premises at Building 22, Bay 8, at The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford.

The estate is owned and managed by London & Cambridge Properties.

Chris Irwin, managing director of Harmony, which supplies audio visual equipment for conferences and exhibitions across the globe for the pharmaceutical, education and financial sectors, has agreed a five-year lease for the 1,638 sq ft unit.

Larger

Mr Irwin said he hoped that 2016 would herald an exciting new chapter for his business by moving to premises that are three times larger than its previous headquarters.

"Business is really starting to pick up and I'm hoping that this year will be a good one for Harmony Audio Visual now that we have moved to our new premises. It's in an excellent location, close to the motorway network and to my new home.

"I'm really pleased that LCP helped me to find the ideal location for my business – I'll now be working hard to raise our profile locally and win new clients."

More visit the Black Country museum

VISITOR numbers are up by eight per cent at the Black Country Living Museum in the last 12 months — raking in an extra £500,000 to put towards new attractions.

A total of 292,530 visitors passed through the doors in 2015, up more than 50,000 in the past two years.

Bosses are remaining tight lipped on where the money will be spent but said it will help the 'future stability' of the museum.

By Andrew Turton

Chiefs said they were delighted with the figures coming after a series of high profile projects, including filming for the new series of hit television show Peaky Blinders at the museum.

The upturn in figures comes after the attraction experienced a slump in numbers around four years ago.

Poor weather had hit numbers in 2012 which were 16 per cent lower than in 2011, which peaked at 298,965.

Recovering

Visitor numbers have markedly improved since 2012 when they stood at 249,574 and 2013 when they fell to 240,088.

In 2014 numbers were up to 271,467 and have risen again for the last 12 months, almost recovering to 2011 levels.

The museum's deputy chief executive, Laura Wakelin, said: "2015 was a very strong year for the museum. We're delighted, especially as it means we are now able to invest the surplus of £500,000 into the Museum to support future sustainability."

Popular events such as the 1940s weekend, bonfire night and Halloween are among the highlights in the calender at the Tipton Road attraction, which has Victorian and 1930s streets.

Features such as the 1930s street, the village, the mine and the ever popular Bottle and Glass Inn continue to drawn in the crowds.

Officials have also worked on welcoming more school groups to the museum, including creating a new school's entrance and exhibition space to enhance the experience for youngsters arriving for the day.

Hit television show Peaky Blinders returned to film scenes for its third series at the museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley. Fns of the series have been arriving to visit some of the sets used for the show starring actor Cillian Murphy.

Cash has been spent improving links between the museum, Dudley Zoo and Castle and canal tunnels.

Car industry award

A STOURBRIDGE recruitment business was among the winners at the Motorsport Industry Association's annual Business Excellence Awards.

The event ran alongside the Autosport International Show at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre on January 14. Jonathan Lee Recruitment, of Mount Road, won the service to the industry award.

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Express & Star 01902 317 878

Follow the yellow brick road — to Netherton

Janet Kirkham, Bethan Siviter-Coupland and Melissa Huband are the three witches in The Wizard of Oz

THE annual pantomime from a youthful group of performers is set to be another smash hit.

The Young Ones and Their Guests are putting the finishes touches to their performance of The Wizard of Oz.

The group is made up of a talented group of seven to 18-year-olds. The first performance will be at Netherton Arts Centre on Saturday.

Director and choreographer Audrey Hepwood, who has been involved with the group for 30 years, said: "Cinderella, Aladdin and Sleeping Beauty are all great fun, but we've done them all over the years. We were looking for something a bit different.

"That's why we decided on The Wizard of Oz."

The show starts this Saturday and runs until the following Saturday, January 30.

Evening performances start at 7.15pm with matinee shows on the weekend begin at 2.30pm.

For ticket details call Chris Sykes on (01384) 895266. Tickets cost £9 or £10.

Rockers swagger back with style

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

THE classic bluesy rock on White Bear, the second album from The Temperance Movement, further establishes this British band as torch bearers for honest no-nonsense rock.

Their music is in the swaggering tradition of The Black Crowes and AC/DC with nods to the reflective West Coast style of the likes of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

The band already have a reputation as a great live act and White Bear will add to their legion of fans, particularly thanks to full-throated Scottish frontman Phil Campbell.

They have already won The Rolling Stones' seal of approval, having been chosen to support the living legends on tour.

Highlights on White Bear include the stomping Three Bulleits and the free-wheeling, expansive A Pleasant Peace I Feel.

Notorious

Check them out in concert at Birmingham's O2 Institute in Digbeth on Monday, January 25.

Notorious for unpleasant on-stage antics, it's a safe bet that **Fat White Family** aren't looking to become family favourites by name checking killer GP Doctor Shipman, Italian dictator Mussolini and Hitler's henchman Joseph Goebbels with tracks on second album **Songs For Our Mothers**.

Their sound is so slippery it's hard to pin down, which isn't a bad thing. Safe to say, if you enjoy the loose grooves of The Happy Mondays and/or the intensity of John Lydon's PIL, this ramshackle bunch are certainly worth listening to.

Bear necessities — The Temperance Movement Picture by Rob Blackham

I suspect that with a little more focus Songs For Our Mothers could have been an exceptional album. There are more than a few hints of that amid all the frazzled strangeness.

It begins with the relentless Krautrock rhythm of Whitest Boy On The Beach, takes it to another woozy level on Satisfied, and reaches its zenith with Duce — imagine some mad jam involving The Yardbirds, the Glitter Band and chanting Gregorian monks.

The delivery of lyrics range from whispers to screams with chants in between, and are mostly indistinct, which is perhaps a good thing given the band's desire to shock. But the cumulative effect is wonky, weird and overwhelming.

You can catch Fat White Family live when they kick off their latest tour at Birmingham's O2 Institute on February 20 — don't say I didn't warn you.

Nearly three years on from the debut album by **Savages**, Silence Yourself, **Adore Life** finds the London-based black-clad female band perfecting their spikey goth/punk sound, which recalls the likes of Penetration and Siouxsie and the Banshees, with a theme that often returns to sexual politics.

Lead singer Jehnny Beth has a stentorian tone but also reveals a more vulnerable side on Adore and Slowing Down The World.

But if you want pure punk attitude, it doesn't come much more withering than the put-down I Need Something New. When In Love is a stand-out track with its questing lyric and incendiary passion whilst Mechanics makes for a dark, apocalyptic closure.

fast theticket

Rock on

Rocky Horror Show is back – see page 23

Shakespeare remade

see page 23

NATIVE MONSTER
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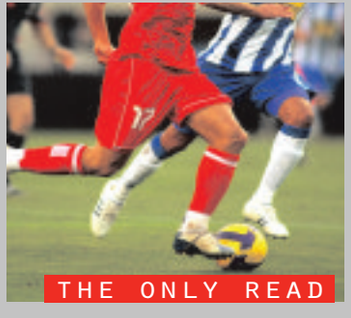

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Isy Suttie

Tuesday, 8pm
The Slade Rooms, W'ton
The comedian from Hull, best known as Dobby in hit C4 comedy series Peep Show, brings her stand-up show about boyfriend hunting, The Actual One.
Visit **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Nicola Benedetti

Wednesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
Classical star Nicola Benedetti will perform Szymanowski's second violin concerto. Also being performed will be Haydn's Symphony No. 92 and Brahms' fourth.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

The Libertines

Wednesday, 6pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
The Libertines released a highly acclaimed album, Anthems For Doomed Youth, in September last year. They are now on their own arena tour which heads out way next week.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

Patty Griffin

Sunday, 7pm
Glee Club, B'ham
The Texas-based songstress won the Grammy for her 2010 album Down-town Church and her most recent album, Servant of Love, was released last year.
Visit **www.glee.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

In This Moment
Fri at 6pm, £12.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Usual Suspects
Fri at 9.30pm,
The Knights Quest, Rowley Regis, B65 0EE.
Call B65 0EE

Motionless In White
Fri at 6pm,
Asylum, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 3LS.
Call 0121 233 1109

Creedance Collection: Credence Clearwater Revival Tribute
Fri at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

Dilly Dally
Mon at 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Voodoo Glow Skulls
Wed at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Rebecca Ferguson: Lady Sings The Blues – POSTPONED
Sat at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £35
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Nahko And Medicine For The People
Sat at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Abbamania: Tribute To Abba
Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Seyes: Yes Experience
Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

One Night Of Rock
Fri at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

G2 Definitive Genesis: Genesis Tribute
Sat at 9pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Libertines
Wed at 6pm, £25.70 - £35.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Eradikator
Sat at 6.45pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Open Mic Night
Mon at 8.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

The Temperance Movement
Mon at 7pm, £14
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Battle of The Bands Heats
Fri, Sun, 7.30pm
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue at 8.30pm, Free
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Aaron Watson
Wed at 7pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Patty Griffin
Sun at 7pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Irish Music Session
Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

JAZZ & BLUES

Blues Club
Sat at 4pm - 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Reuben James Jazz Trio
Fri at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Del Camino
Thu at 10pm, £0 - £5
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Kenny Thomas
Wed at 8.30pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Sax In The City: The Notebenders
Sat at 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Solid Soul
Fri at 9pm, Sat at 9pm,
£5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Story Of Ronnie Scott's
Sat at 8pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Room 4 the Blues – Session
Fri, 8pm
The Claregate Pub, Codsall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 9ED.

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

The Lydia Glanville Quartet
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Singalong With The CBSO: Haydn's The Creation
Sun at 1.30pm, 7pm, £13.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16: Nicola Benedetti: Szymanowski
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

KS3 Schools' Concerts
Fri at 11am, 1pm, £5
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Strictly Come Dancing
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Sun at 1.30pm, 6.30pm, £35 - £65
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Freezin
Sat at 7.30pm,
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

ZooResidence Showcase: Nursery Rhymez: Remixed
Wed at 2pm, 7pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Entertaining Angels by Richard Everett
Mon - Thu at 7.30pm
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

The Boy Who Bit Picasso
Fri at 10am, 1.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

A Beautiful Ending
Tue at 8pm - 10.20pm, Wed at 8pm - 10.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Ballet Theatre UK: The Snow Queen
Fri at 7.30pm, £12 - £17
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Cabaret XXL 2016
Thu at 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Death Of A Salesman
Fri at 7.45pm, Sun at 2.45pm, 7.45pm, Mon at 7.45pm, Wed at 7.45pm, Thu at 7.45pm,
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Legend Of King Arthur
Sun at 7.30pm, £10
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

The Great Gatsby
Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

The Midnight Soup
Sat at 2pm, 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Rocky Horror Show
Mon at 8pm, Tue at 8pm, Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Lady Lust
Fri at 8pm - 10pm, Sat at 8pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Macbeth
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
£8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Peter Pan
Fri at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, Sun at 2pm, 6pm, £17 - £31.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Snowman
Fri at 2pm, 7pm, Sat at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, Sun at 3pm,
£13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Aladdin
Sun at 5.15pm, Tue at 2pm, 7.15pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.15pm, Thu at 12pm, 12pm, 7.15pm, £14 - £42
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Birmingham Is Funny: Foghorn Unscripted - What The Dickens?
Sat at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

No Such Thing As A Fish With The QI Elves: Live Tour
Sat at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Isy Suttie: The Actual One
Tue at 8pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Best In Live Stand-Up Comedy
Fri, Sat at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy In The Met
Sat at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Dave Gorman: Gets Straight To The Point (The PowerPoint)
Tue at 8pm, £24
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The REP And Innovation In Theatre Design: Talk
Thu at 12pm, £4.50 - £12
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Beta International 2016
Sun at 9.30am - 6pm, Mon at 9.30am - 6pm, Tue at 9.30am - 4.30pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Monster Energy Arenacross Tour
Sat at 7pm, Sun at 3pm
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

CLUBBING

Quadrophenia Night
Sat - Sun at 8pm - 1am,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

EL-B
Fri - Sat at 10pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Return of Rocky's raunchy musical

Do the time warp again with those naughty s-extraterrestrials when The Rocky Horror Show arrives in Birmingham

SINCE its first appearance at London's Royal Court Theatre in June 1973, Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show has become the world's favourite rock 'n' roll musical.

It has been performed for over 40 years and has been translated into more than 20 languages, as well as becoming a cult movie.

Director Christopher Luscombe created a new production to celebrate the 40th anniversary and this version of the show is back by popular demand, embarking on a year-long national tour including a stint at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

X Factor finalist and chart-topper Diana Vickers will star in the role of Janet Weiss, opposite Emmerdale actor Ben Freeman as Brad Majors. S Club 7 star Paul Cattermole will join them as rocker Eddie and Dr Scott. West End star Liam Tamne, who shot to fame on The Voice, has been cast as transexual alien icon Frank N Furter.

Following over 900 performances of the 40th anniversary tour, Kristian Lavercombe returns as Riff Raff.

The musical extravaganza features classic songs including Science Fiction/Double Feature, Dammit Janet and, of course, The Time-Warp.

Double double toil and trouble

ACTORS John Heffernan and Anna Maxwell Martin will star as the most famous power couple in drama in an ambitious and highly physical new staging of Shakespeare's Macbeth, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Scottish nobleman Macbeth, inspired by the prophecy of three witches, embarks on a murderous journey of power, treachery and paranoia in his bid to gain the Scottish throne, encouraged by his ambitious wife.

Maxwell Martin (pictured left as Lady Macbeth) is a twice Bafta award winning actress, for Bleak House and Poppy Shakespeare, also known for Death Comes to Pemberley. She was most recently seen on TV screens in The Frankenstein Chronicles, Midwinter of the Spirit and the BBC's Christmas whodunnit And Then There Were None.

Luther

Heffernan, who plays Macbeth, is one of this country's leading stage actors with the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also recently been seen on screen in Dickensian and Luther.

The production has been directed by Carrie Cracknell and choreographer Lucy Guerin, who also collaborated on the National Theatre's acclaimed production of Medea.

The Rep will stage several Shakespeare plays this year, including Twelfth Night and King Lear, to mark the 400th anniversary of his death. See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Strictly fabulous as celebs keep dancing

THE Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour returns to Birmingham for a fab-ulous ninth year.

Leading the pack will be this year's Glitter Ball winner Jay McGuiness, from boyband The Wanted. He will be partnered again by professional Aliona Vilani, who has announced that she is quitting the BBC TV show.

Other celebrities booked in for the three-day Birmingham run from tomorrow (Fri) to Sunday are Georgia May Foote, Helen George, Frankie Bridge, Ainsley Harriott, Anita Rani, and Jake Wood. They will be joining the 2016 tour host Mel Giedroyc, together with judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli.

Picasso show for family audiences

AN INTERACTIVE theatre show that offers audience members a chance to make art is being staged in Wolverhampton.

The Boy Who Bit Picasso is at Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, on Saturday at 2.30pm. There will be performances for schools the day before. The show by Untied Artists and Oxford Playhouse brings artist Antony Penrose's children's book to life and combines storytelling, music and art. It tells the true tale of how a young boy – Penrose himself – became friends with the great Spanish artist.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £4 children on 01902 572090.

Singer puts back tour to the autumn

REBECCA Ferguson has rescheduled her Lady Sings the Blues tour, postponing her Birmingham concert for nearly ten months.

The X Factor finalist, who was runner-up to Matt Cardle in 2010, won fans for her husky vocals and was due to perform at the Symphony Hall on January 23. The third album by the 29-year-old Liverpudlian features her versions of classic songs by jazz singer Billie Holiday. But the concert has now been moved to November 2.

Miss Ferguson said: "I have made the decision to change the dates for my tour and focus on getting the (new) album ready."

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EVENTS
It doesn't matter what day it is, there's always something going on at the Sammy. From karaoke to pool competitions, bingo to live music, you'll find something to suit your mood.
We also hold a popular music festival a couple of times a year and plans are underway to create a Folk/Jazz club in the cellar bar (musicians get in touch!).
Here's what a typical week entails at the Samson and Lion of Stourbridge.

BAND REHEARSALS / MEETING ROOM
FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE

Fridays
Karaoke unless function prohibits.

Saturdays
Bonus Ball Pay-out and many functions.

Sundays
Meat Raffle - Drawn at 1 pm. £1 per strip for a chance of 3 or more prizes. Free bar snacks.
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'Burger and a Pint' £4.25

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07930 473482

SATURDAY'S TV JANUARY 23

CHOICE

Eva Kor

The Girl Who Forgave the Nazis
(Channel 4, 8pm)
In the summer of 2015 former Auschwitz clerk Oskar Groening – then aged 93 – was charged as an accessory to the murder of more than 300,000 Jews at the infamous death camp. During the subsequent trial, 81-year-old Auschwitz survivor Eva Kor was called to give her testimony on the medical experiments she endured at the hands of Josef Mengele. Finding herself face-to-face with a Nazi for the first time in more than 70 years, Eva chose to embrace Groening, publicly forgiving him despite the role he played in the deaths of most of her family. This documentary explores the impact of her decision to absolve Groening, who was ultimately sentenced to four years in prison.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open. **2.00** Live International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Now You See It. **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Soap stars Joe Swash and John Altman, Nick Pickard and Ali Bastian, Victoria Bush and Zaraah Abrahams, and Sharon Maughan and Tina Hobley take part in the unorthodox quiz show.

6.50 The Getaway Car. Brothers Mitz and Dee, husband-and-wife duo Charlie and Kate, best friends Chloe and Bethany, sisters Val and Babs and new couple Joseph and Karen tackle the Getaway Car circuit.

7.45 The Voice UK. The spinning-chair singing contest continues, as Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson appraise the talents of another round of hopeful stars in the third of seven "blind auditions". This week, Waterloo Road actor Tom Milner seeks to impress the coaches as he takes to the stage, and Irene Alano-Rhodes, the former star of Miss Saigon, displays her vocal skills. Dubliner Lauren Lapsley-Browne hopes her unique voice will make an impact, and eccentric rocker Billy Black's performance sparks a conflict on the panel. Plus, Brooke Waddle, the daughter of former England footballer Chris Waddle, also takes to the stage.

9.05 Casualty. An office worker makes use of her stay in hospital to get her own back on her prankster colleague, and Noel mistakenly believes Big Mac saved him from a vicious mugger.

9.55 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League games; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life. (2003) Action adventure sequel.

1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **6.55 Film:** Animal Farm. (1954) **8.05 Film:** Bye Bye Birdie. (1963) **9.55 Film:** Race to Witch Mountain. (2009) **11.30** Island Stories. **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **1.30 Film:** Day of the Evil Gun. (1968) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **3.00 Film:** 4 for Texas. (1963) Comedy Western, starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. **4.50** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Victorian Bakers. (R)

6.50 Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson is appointed manager of the Eastgate branch of the bank. Comedy, starring John Le Mesurier. (R)

7.20 Film: War Horse. (2011) A farmer's son forms a close bond with a horse he trains, but is forced to give the animal up when it is sold to the British army during the First World War. The horse passes through various owners on both sides as he travels across the battlefields of France, while the boy refuses to give up on being reunited. Steven Spielberg's drama based on Michael Morpurgo's book, starring Jeremy Irvine.

9.35 QI XL. Panellists Julia Zemiro, Matt Lucas and David Mitchell and Alan Davies compete, as Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the comedy quiz show. In this edition, the host meditates on matters medieval and macabre, and as usual, he poses questions that are so difficult, points are awarded for the answers he finds most interesting.

10.20 Insert Name Here. Jennifer Saunders, Romesh Ranganathan, Jessica Hynes and Suzannah Lipscomb join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. (R)

10.50 Live at the Apollo. Mock the Week host Dara O Briain comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Zoe Lyons and Paul Chowdhry. (R)

11.35 International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. Action from the semi-final matches in the Open Singles tournament, at the Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk.

12.35 Film: Walkabout. (1971) **2.15 Film:** East of Sudan. (1964) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.25** Tipping Point. (R) **3.30** Doc Martin. (R) **4.30** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **5.00** The Saturday Night Story. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! More comical mishaps submitted for approval by viewers.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the final heat, as competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the obstacle-course challenge.

8.00 Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness invites four more men to try their hands at winning a date with one of his 30 single ladies. This time, the would-be suitors are James, a caravan salesman from Skegness, London-based fireman David, Milton Keynes plumber Sam and Al, an American car fanatic and musician. Each of the men enters the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy gives viewers a chance to catch up with last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. US actor John Krasinski, actress and comedienne Catherine Tate and Scottish stand-up star Kevin Bridges join Jonathan in the studio, and Rudimental perform live.

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.30 Film: The Chronicles of Riddick. (2004) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Vin Diesel.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** International Snowdon Race. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and Haydock Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day of the competition in Llanelli and teaching assistant Ainsley wants to educate her guests, while serving up an authentic Russian-themed dinner party. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go in search of the lost route between London and the sea, which has not been fully open for over 200 years and requires four different boats to traverse now. They leave the Thames at Teddington and travel through the Surrey and Sussex countryside before arriving at Guildford, and a canal-side theatre where they have both regularly performed. The final leg of the trip brings them to the River Arun before reaching the English Channel. (R)

8.00 The Girl Who Forgave the Nazis. Documentary investigating the wider impact of Holocaust survivor Eva Kor's decision to forgive Oskar Groening, the 93-year-old former Nazi who once worked as a clerk at Auschwitz.

9.00 Film: Oblivion. (2013) Premiere. A repairman is assigned to salvage the remaining resources from Earth, which has been left a devastated wasteland after a war with an alien race. He discovers a human survivor on the surface of the planet, an encounter that exposes secrets from the past that threaten the future of the human race. Sci-fi adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman.

11.30 Film: Priest. (2011) Fantasy thriller, with Paul Bettany.

1.10 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.15** Undercover Boss Canada. (R) **4.05** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **3.25** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **4.20** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **5.20** 5 News Weekend. **5.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R)

6.20 Ice Road Truckers. Lisa and Todd venture onto a route that has not been used before, while a crash threatens to bring Alex's season to an end. (R)

7.05 World War II in Colour. This edition looks at Hitler's plans to push his forces into the Soviet Union, beginning with the launch of Operation Barbarossa in the summer of 1941. (R)

8.00 World War II Battlefield Recovery. A four-man team of excavation experts sets out to retrieve Second World War relics from the battlefields and war-zones of the Eastern Front, telling the stories of fallen soldiers by examining their remains.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the second tier of English football, including Queens Park Rangers v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Loftus Road, Birmingham City v Ipswich Town at St Andrew's, Brighton & Hove Albion v Huddersfield Town at the Amex Stadium and Leeds United v Bristol City at Elland Road.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present all the goals from League One and League Two, where fixtures included Burton Albion v Shrewsbury Town and Bristol Rovers v Plymouth Argyle.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Rufus Hound and actress Jorgie Porter go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.05 Film:** Looper (2012) **10.55** Russell Howard's Good News **11.25** Family Guy **1.35** Siblings **2.05 Film:** Tropic Thunder (2008) **3.45** Glastonbury: The Udder Side **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.55** Music Moguls: Masters of Pop **11.55** Duets at the BBC **12.55** Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown **1.55** Top of the Pops **3.20** Sounds of the Eighties **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.05 Ninja Warrior UK **12.05** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.05** Scorpion **2.05 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **4.20** Minion Madness **4.40 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.25 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **8.15** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **9.15** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.15 Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **12.25 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 A Touch of Frost **1.50** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Marchlands **1.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **2.00** Man About the House **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 Storage Wars: Texas **1.25** Storage Wars **2.20 Film:** The Sting (1973) **5.00 Film:** Apache (1954) **6.50 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **9.00 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **11.05 Film:** The Kingdom (2007) **1.20** Inside Manchester City **2.15** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs: At the Movies **2.00 Film:** The Core (2003) **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** This Means War (2012) **11.00** Gogglebox **12.50** Virtually Famous **1.40** The Inbetweeners **2.45** The IT Crowd **3.35** Charmed **4.15** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Biggles (1986) **1.00** The Princess Diaries (2001) **3.15** The War of the Worlds (1953) **5.00** Parental Guidance (2012) **7.05** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **8.55** Youth Interview Special **9.00** Red Eye (2005) **10.35** Mindscape (2013) **12.30** Blood and Chocolate (2007) **2.25** Oki's Movie (2010) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

James May

James May's Cars of the People (BBC2, 9pm)
New series. The former Top Gear presenter examines how the car industry in Germany and Japan blossomed following the Second World War, becoming manufacturing giants that far outstripped the Allied nations that had defeated them. He test drives some of the vehicles Germany and Japan produced during the post-war period, as well as an assortment of other classic cars, including E-Types and Mustangs. He also reveals the sad tale of the Austin Allegro, a vehicle that had a devastating impact on the British car industry.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **3.00** The Truth About Sugar. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Countryfile.

6.30 Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur. The story of how more than 220 dinosaur bones were found in the Argentinean desert, which were found to have come from a previously undiscovered species, which is the largest land dwelling animal known to have existed. David Attenborough visits the archaeological dig and a laboratory where the remains are being cleaned and analysed with lead scientist Dr Diego Pol and evolutionary biologist Ben Garrod, and meets animators, model-makers, paleontologists and anatomy experts who are working to reconstruct what the 37 metre-long creature would have looked like.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. David Jason stars as Granville in this follow-up to Open All Hours, now running the shop with his son Leroy after inheriting the business from Arkwright.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Barbara faces the biggest test of her career, Nurse Crane learns to speak Spanish, and Sister Evangelina helps a woman with breastfeeding, leading to unforeseen consequences.

9.00 War & Peace. Natasha encounters temptation during Andrei's absence, Countess Rostova and Anna both try to find wealthy wives for their sons, and Pierre grows frustrated with married life.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's two Premier League fixtures, which were Arsenal v Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium and Everton v Swansea City at Goodison Park.

11.30 Film: Private Peaceful. (2012) Premiere. Drama based on Michael Morpurgo's novel, starring Jack O'Connell.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **2.00** Live International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 Film: Real Steel. (2011) In the future, boxing matches between eight-foot robots are one of the world's biggest sporting draws. A washed-up human prizefighter finds an abandoned android and sets about restoring it to become a potential champion, a project that reunites him with his estranged 11-year-old son. Sci-fi drama, starring Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo and Evangeline Lilly. Edited for daytime broadcast.

8.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis gives another group of would-be entrepreneurs the chance to impress panelists Deborah Meaden, Nick Jenkins, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman and Sarah Willingham with their business ideas. Products featured in the show include a portable drum kit that does not need drums and an inflatable tanning tent.

9.00 James May's Cars of the People. New series. The former Top Gear presenter examines how the car industry in Germany and Japan blossomed following the Second World War, while Britain's own manufacturers struggled.

10.00 Film: Blood Diamond. (2006) Smuggler Danny Archer ends up in prison in war-torn Sierra Leone in 1999, where he meets Solomon, a Mende fisherman separated from his family by guerrillas. Danny pledges to help the desperate man rescue his son, who has been forcibly conscripted as a child soldier, in return for a rare pink diamond that Solomon had hidden away before his capture. Action thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou and Jennifer Connelly.

12.10 Film: Heist. (2001) A thief is blackmailed into pulling off a robbery, and also suspects his wife is planning to leave him. David Mamet's thriller, with Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito and Rebecca Pidgeon. **1.55** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.15 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James Bond adventure, starring George Lazenby.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Planet's Got Talent. New series. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring blindfolded sword-swallowing and a group of stuntmen crashing a bus.

7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. A new leader is to be chosen as Herot faces being torn apart by civil war between the tribes, leaving Rheda faced with the possibility of fighting to remain in power.

8.00 Endeavour. The detective is approached by a former mentor from his college days, who asks Morse to ensure the safety of his wife. However, the assignment leaves him contemplating his future with the police force. Meanwhile, a murder in the world of fashion stirs up old gangland conflicts in the city. Shaun Evans stars. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 The Day Hitler Died. Documentary exploring the fuhrer's final hours in his Berlin bunker as Russian forces closed in, featuring previously unseen interviews with eyewitnesses, recorded in 1948.

11.15 Perspectives: Bruce Forsyth on Sammy Davis Jr. The veteran entertainer explores the life and work of the US singer, dancer and actor.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Film: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian. (2009) The living exhibits at New York's Museum of Natural History are shipped to Washington's Smithsonian Institution – along with the artefact that brought them to life in the first place. Nightwatchman Larry tries to retrieve it, only to find the contents of the world's largest museum have been reanimated, including a pharaoh determined to take over the world. Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller.

8.00 Walking the Himalayas. Levison Wood and guide Binod Pariyar face a 30-mile trek through the jungles of Eastern Nepal, with no roads and few people to tell them they are heading in the right direction. Their journey comes to an end in Bhutan, a country rarely visited by foreigners, where they visit a holy mountain, join the celebrations for the king's birthday, and listen to local children's tales of yeti. Last in the series.

9.00 Deutschland 83. The bug in Linda's desk is discovered, and Moritz is given two options – persuade the secretary to defect or kill her. Alex turns to Tischbier following an argument with his father.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Sean Lock and Rob Beckett compete against Jon Richardson and Cariad Lloyd in the comedy panel show, while Sam Simmons helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.05 Film: 48 Hrs. (1982) A hard-bitten cop temporarily releases a fast-talking criminal from prison to help him track down two escaped fugitives. Comedy thriller, starring Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy.

12.50 Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic. (R) **1.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Undercover Boss USA. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.20** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.35** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05 Film:** Drillbit Taylor. (2008) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson. **3.05 Film:** Space Camp. (1986) Children's sci-fi adventure, starring Kate Capshaw. **5.05 Film:** Labyrinth. (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie.

7.05 Film: The Wedding Planner. (2001) A single woman who organises weddings for a living is swept off her feet by a dashing doctor, but her dreams of him becoming her husband suffer a setback when she discovers she has already been hired to organise his marriage to another woman. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez, Matthew McConaughey, Bridgette Wilson-Sampras, Justin Chambers and Joanna Gleason. Edited for language.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. Leading surgeons repair household names damaged by cosmetic surgery.

10.55 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005) Married assassins are hired to kill each other – a situation that restores some much-needed excitement to their relationship. Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

1.10 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.40** The Voice UK **9.00 Film:** Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Siblings **1.00** Adam Pearson: Freak Show **2.00** True North: Keepin 'Er Country **2.40** London Fashion Week: Grace Victory's Top Picks **3.05** London Fashion Week: Abby Clancy's Top Picks **3.30** Emergency Rescue Down Under **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Len Goodman's Dancing Feet: The British Ballroom Story **10.00** Storyville: The Great Gangster Film Fraud **11.25** The Mystery of Murder: A Horizon Guide **12.25** The Brain with David Eagleman **1.25** Blink: A Horizon Guide to the Senses **2.25** Sounds of the Eighties **2.55** Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown **3.55** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out **1.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.15 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.00 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **6.20 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **8.00 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **10.55 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **1.00** Reality Bites **1.45** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.55 The Return of Sherlock Holmes **2.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Me and My Guide Dog **9.00** Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** The Kindness of Strangers **11.35 Film:** The Hours (2002) **1.45** Secret Smile **3.00** On the Buses **3.30** Heartbeat **5.10** Rising Damp

ITV4
12.20 Film: The 'Burbs (1989) **2.25 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **4.15 Film:** The Sting (1973) **7.00** The Classic Car Show **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **11.10 Film:** Sleepers (1996) **2.05** Ax Men **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
5.00 The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.10** The Inbetweeners **1.15** The IT Crowd **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Titanic (1953) **1.00** Bride Wars (2009) **2.50** The Last Mimzy (2007) **4.40** Carry On Behind (1975) **6.30** Anna Karenina (2012) **9.00** Bringing Down the House (2003) **11.05** Splice (2009)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Willed to Kill, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A homicide detective must face up to her own troubled childhood when a serial killer develops a twisted obsession with her. Thriller, with Sarah Jane Morris and Michael Riley. (2012)

TUESDAY
Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson, Jack Falahee and Mary McCormack. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
The Gourmet Detective: A Healthy Place to Die, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Charming culinary expert Henry Ross is invited to give a speech at a food conference at a luxury resort, but when a journalist guest goes missing, and later turns up dead, Henry once again finds himself joining forces with no-nonsense police detective Maggie Price to solve the crime. Detective comedy sequel, starring Dylan Neal and Brooke Burns. (2015)

Fatal Attraction, Friday, Channel 4, 12.55am

THURSDAY
My Daughter Must Live, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers that her daughter needs a liver transplant, but medical tests reveal that her husband is not the girl's father. She is forced to track down her former lover, who was last seen fleeing for his life having crossed a corrupt businessman, but the quest jeopardises both her marriage and her life. Thriller, starring Joelle Carter and Madeleine Martin. (2014)

FRIDAY
Fatal Attraction, Channel 4, 12.55am
A married lawyer has a one-night stand with a business associate while his wife and children are out of town. He hopes to keep his infidelity a secret, but she is determined to continue the relationship, and begins obsessively stalking him and his unsuspecting family. Thriller, starring Michael Douglas, Glenn Close and Anne Archer. (1987)

New series serves up a simple yet tasty treat

You just can't keep a good woman down, which perhaps explains why Mary Berry is back on the box this week – not just once, but twice.

She will be judging, alongside regular cohort Paul Hollywood, the efforts of a variety of famous faces who have agreed to take part in the new run of The Great Sport Relief Bake Off, which begins on Wednesday.

But before then, we can catch her in action in this offering, one that takes us back to basics.

Many TV cooks have, over the years, attempted to teach the nation to do more than just open a tin of beans, and they've done it with varying degrees of success. We reckon Mary will turn out to be the best of the lot.

Rather than going through such mundane tasks as boiling an egg or cooking pasta the right way, she offers handy practical tips on how to prepare simple but tasty and quick recipes that will keep everyone at home happy – and even serve you well if you're organising a dinner party for family or friends.

Commissioning editor Tom Edwards says: "Mary is one of the ultimate icons of cookery programming. It's a delight to serve her latest offering to a BBC Two audience.

"This series connects with something that is essential to Mary – delicious food, made foolproof."

Sadly, Mary's TV career hasn't been foolproof of late. Hollywood attempted to take the Bake off to, er, Hollywood, when he made The American Baking Competition in 2013, but it bombed, never to rise again.

Mary followed in his footsteps late in 2015 with The Great Holiday Baking Show, which aped our own offering as closely as it could. It should have had 'success' written all over it, but instead it received the same kind of reception as Hollywood would give a tart with a soggy bottom – it lost almost a million viewers in a week.

Despite this setback, Mary is still keen on bringing her homespun wisdom to as many people as possible – and it seems that, if she is attracted to a project, she will grab it with both hands. It's an approach she credits to a three-month spell she had in hospital after contracting polio as a child; she claims that being away from her family toughened her up and inspired her to make the most of every opportunity.

Mary will turn 81 in March, an age when many people are slowing down and enjoying their retirement. Instead, she heads back into the kitchen – something that delights her army of fans.

In the first edition of this series, she regales viewers with memories of her life, family and friends while demonstrating how to prepare five dishes suitable for special days and celebrations, including salmon fillets with herbs and red pepper and a side dish of spiralised vegetables as well as an indulgent treat of lobster tails with aioli and asparagus.

And if you forget the instructions, as you might have already guessed, Mary has written a book to accompany the series, which is published on Thursday.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Crashing
Channel 4, 10pm
Life in the dilapidated hospital rumbles on, and we're enjoying every minute of watching it pan out. Phoebe Waller-Bridge's sitcom is an absolute delight, focusing on a group of people who have set up home in a disused building, paying minimal rent while attempting to prevent it becoming derelict. It's a great premise, and one that allows a real mixed bag of characters to take up residence. Among them is resident Irish curry chef Anthony, who this week organises an evening of spicy delights. Unfortunately, his efforts look set to be ignored as the event descends into chaos that leaves not just the fruits of his labour on the floor. Meanwhile, relationships come to the fore as Fred introduces his housemates to his new boyfriend.

TUESDAY
The Mad World of Donald Trump
Channel 4, 9pm
He's already a multi-billionaire tycoon, but now Donald Trump is out to become the President of the USA - and by extension, the most powerful person on the planet. His campaign is already one of the most controversial the US has ever seen, complete with plans to ban Muslims from entering the States and to construct a wall to keep out Mexican immigrants. However, his promise to 'make America great again' has clearly resonated with many voters, and he's currently leading the polls for the Republican presidential nomination. Here, Matt Frei tries to uncover the man behind the brand, exploring Trump's colourful past and asking if he really could make it all the way to the White House.

WEDNESDAY
Holocaust Memorial Day
BBC2, 7pm
With more than 200 survivors in attendance, a unique commemoration at Guildhall, London marks Holocaust Memorial Day and remembers those persecuted and murdered by the Nazis, and those who died in later genocides. The ceremony includes personal testimony, music and poetry, with actors Sheila Hancock, Robert Lindsay, Kevin Whately and Freddie Fox taking part. Plus, the internationally renowned choir of Clare College Cambridge performs, and acclaimed violinist Jennifer Pike plays the theme from Schindler's List.

The Great Sport Relief Bake Off, Wednesday, BBC1, 8.30pm

The Great Sport Relief Bake Off
BBC1, 8.30pm
The celebrity edition of The Great British Bake Off returns, with each episode featuring four celebrities as they tackle three challenges set by judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry. Mel Giedroyc hosts the first edition, as comedian Jason Manford, Eastenders actress Maddy Hill, ex-England goalkeeper David James, and business woman and wife of the Prime Minister Samantha Cameron bake for Sport Relief in the Bake Off tent. For the signature challenge, they must make 24 canapes using rough puff pastry made from scratch, before creating Paris Brest, a French pastry confection, in the technical.

THURSDAY
Britain's Bloody Crown
Channel 5, 8pm
Historian Dan Jones's part-dramatised journey through the War of the Roses reaches its thrilling conclusion tonight. At the centre of the story is Margaret Beaufort, a woman who could be described as being the power behind the throne. She was the mother of Henry Tudor, the man who defeated Richard III at the battle of Bosworth in 1485, and who was eventually crowned as Henry VII. Jones begins Mary's story in January 1457 when, at 13, two months after her husband's death, she gave birth to Henry, and set about doing whatever was necessary to protect her son and keep in her the monarch's good books. But it was her manipulation of certain events, enabling Henry to take control of the country, that remains Mary's biggest achievement.

FRIDAY
MOTD Live: The FA Cup
BBC1, 7.30pm
Derby County v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.55pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the match from the fourth round of the famous competition, which takes place at the iPro Stadium. The Rams – chasing promotion back to the Premier League for the first time since the 2007/08 season – will fancy their chances against the Red Devils, who have come under fire this season for playing negative football and suffering some shock defeats.

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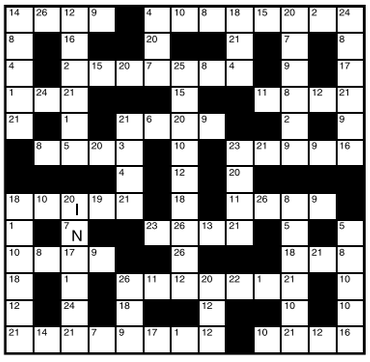
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



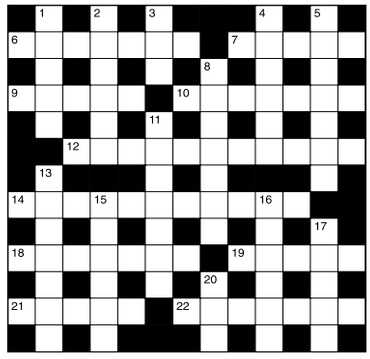
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7 N	20 I
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
U	E	G	R	W	Z	H	D	F	C	J	Q	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	S	N	I	V	X	M	K	Y	T	P	L

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6 & 7Ac. Distress call from deprived fishermen, we hear! (4,3,5)
7. See 6 Across
9. A kind of driver for the propeller (5)
10 & 13Dn. Mail intended for London? (7,7)
12. Transport for one who wishes to retire (8-3)
14. Disease won't upset this resort (7,4)
18. It's at no different boarding place (7)
19, 1Dn. & 20Dn. Their job isn't to prevent daylight robbery! (5-8)
21. Manage to get through the exercise (5)
22. See 11 Down

Down

1. See 19 Across
2. Expose the facts about meat (6)
3. Potter needs it - that's a hint (3)
4. Successfully handling a kind of saw (6)
5. It annually contains an astronomical amount of information (7)
8. A trial's disrupted by cowboys' equipment (7)
11 & 22Ac. Set out for the mountains, if you have one! (4,3,7)
13. See 10 Across
15. Pay for the bench (6)
16. Removes moisture from the arenas, we hear (6)
17. Talks in church at services (5)
20. See 19 Across

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Generous (7)
7. Hoist (5)
9. Fashion (5)
10. Arrange (7)
12. Dishonour (11)
14. In brackets (11)
18. Twist (7)
19. Horse (5)
21. Portion (5)
22. Sorrow (7)

Down

1. Smaller (5)
2. Deny (6)
3. Whim (3)
4. Dictator (6)
5. Quibble (7)
8. Violinist (7)
11. Authors (7)
13. Pithy (7)
15. Allure (6)
16. Set (6)
17. Poetry (5)
20. Beam (3)

Sudoku

		6	4		1		5	
1						6		9
	7	9		6			4	1
7					4		8	
2				7	6			3
	3		5					
9				1			7	8
3		8		4				2
	6				9	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	5	3	4	7	1	8	6	2
8	6	7	9	3	2	5	4	1
4	2	1	6	5	8	9	7	3
2	1	5	8	6	4	3	9	7
7	4	9	2	1	3	6	5	8
6	3	8	5	9	7	2	1	4
3	9	4	7	2	6	1	8	5
5	7	2	1	8	9	4	3	6
1	8	6	3	4	5	7	2	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Grained; 7 Auric; 9 Ace; 10 Revolting; 12 Misanthrope; 15 Sit-down meal; 17 Take place; 19 Dot; 21 Lease; 22 Hastier. Down: 1 Brace; 2 Tip; 3 Mete; 4 Cut-throat; 5 Kidnaps; 8 Bottom; 11 Wild beast; 13 As well; 14 Minaret; 16 Moses; 18 Char; 20 Sty. QUICK - Across: 6 Conceal; 7 Tease; 9 Fee; 10 Dejection; 12 Ups-and-downs; 15 Yellow fever; 17 Occupying; 19 Elk; 21 Under; 22 Awkward. Down: 1 Cover; 2 Act; 3 Base; 4 Destroyer; 5 Astound; 8 Meddle; 11 Applauded; 13 Always; 14 Descend; 16 Alert; 18 News; 20 Own.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What, in film-making, is a blimp?
2. Between which two countries is the Brenner Pass?
3. In which century did printer William Caxton live?
4. Who was the Muse of history in Greek mythology?
5. What is the international car registration for Denmark?
6. In which year was the Eiffel Tower erected?
7. What is the term for a person who makes arrows?
8. In which country are one hundred grosz worth one zloty?
9. What was the real name of Al Jolson?
10. What sort of animal is a kob?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pax; 2 Pickwick Papers; 3 12th August; 4 Offenbach; 5 Subscriber Trunk Dialling; 6 Jean Cocteau; 7 A breed of domestic fowl; 8 Sibelius; 9 Japan; 10 Pacific.

Niner: OBSTINACY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7517 gives a song,
67894 gives a dance,
342219 gives a game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, January 21, 2016

Comfortable and spacious interior with choice of seating options

Round off the meal with a delicious sweet

The Manor House of Whttington, formerly the Whittington Pub, on the A449

Camembert with rosemary and garlic

To the Manor House born and fed with service fit for royalty

Lisa Williams reports

STANDING outside The Manor House at Whittington I really felt I should be wearing twinset and pearls, not jeans and a jumper.

It looks rather grand and posh from the outside as well as cosy and inviting. The exterior gives little hint as to what is inside.

I was expecting a quaint, simple sleek interior. But what is actually waiting is a modern, contemporary, clean finish mixing a touch of traditional style with a more quirky and eclectic look.

The Grade-I listed building dates back to 1310 when it was built by Sir William de Whittington and apparently welcomed royalty during its historic past. It reopened last November after a major refurbishment of what was once The Whittington Inn.

Thankfully the bright yellow exterior has long gone as is the tired and dated interior. It's been lovingly restored, with a £1.5 million price tag.

My boyfriend and I, along with both sets of parents, ventured in. The bright, glowing flames from an open fire were the first thing we saw. The bar area is airy and light.

Our table was comfy and intimate but a little bit too near the kitchen as we kept hearing the chef shout 'service', but it turns out this was also a good thing as we could see the food coming out and the pizzas being made. All of which looked scrumptious.

It had only been open a week so we were prepared for teething problems. There were a few, I'll get to them later.

We sat taking in the menu. The online version was not the same. My parents were ready for a turkey dinner and a risotto dish neither of which featured. We quizzed our waitress, Stacey, who went to find out what was going on. Apparently it's the wrong menu online. Ooops! Hopefully this is now resolved. Most was the same though so it was no great drama.

Charm

Service was slow at times but the staff, who were friendly and lovely, were probably finding their feet.

Drinks arrived, orders were taken and we sat back to take in the new decor. Rich burgundy and teal added a bright touch to the classic olde worlde charm.

For starters we'd gone for a couple of Camembert sharers with great hunks of toasted sourdough bread and a sticky onion jam on the side. It was gorgeously gooey.

For the mains I'd gone for a pretty basic pizza, less is more. Marinated buffalo mozzarella, mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes and basil on the best base I've ever tasted.

Mum had gone for the butternut squash tart. She loved the flavours but the potato salad was a little dry with no dressing. Dad had the Josper roasted half chicken, in beer, thyme and malt butter and enjoyed it.

The fish and chips were also a success as the boyfriend's mum tucked in. For the boyfriend and his father burgers arrived, great stacks of chargrilled, perfectly pink in the middle. But. . . the burgers were cold. They were swiftly and politely replaced with plenty of apologies.

Some of us saved room for dessert. I was defeated but two portions of the dark chocolate and raspberry brownie were ordered.

Full, sated and happy, we all agreed we would return soon. While the food does need a teeny tiny bit of improving, the four stars go to the staff .

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Making your home more attractive

THERE'S a range of things you can do to make your home more attractive when you decide to put it on the market, from reorganising the furniture to tidying the garden.

A welcoming kitchen is one of the biggest attractions for potential house buyers. Whether you have a comfortable family oriented meeting place or a stylish singletons galley, the kitchen is most often the heart of the home.

Regardless of your budget, there are a number of simple ways you can maximise its attraction to buyers and speed up the sale of your house: Replacing your entire kitchen to attract buyers is not always necessary. Often the cost of installing a new kitchen outweighs the value it will add to your asking price. Like all home decor, the kitchen will still be subject to personal taste, so if it does not appeal to your buyers they will refit it upon moving in anyway.

If your kitchen is very dated, simple changes can make all the difference. Painting the cupboard doors, replacing handles or taps and re-grouting the tiles can all give a new lease of life.

Clean and de-clutter! Viewers may even look in your cupboards so ensure shelves are cleaned and all contents are organised. Any pet bowls should go outside as potential buyers may not be animal lovers so could be put off by the sight of half eaten pet food.

If necessary, box up items you don't use very often and put them in storage. If your cupboards and drawers are overflowing, buyers will assume there is little storage space, which can be off-putting. Keep work surfaces as clear as possible to enhance the appearance of cleanliness.

Flowers or pot pourri on window sills create a welcoming atmosphere and add a fresh fragrance.

Using these simple but effective ideas will ensure your kitchen looks appealing and entices potential buyers into a prompt decision!

No matter how big your home, it's important to maximise the rooms to create a sense of space, especially if you are trying to sell your property.

Here are some tips to make any home feel more spacious:

Mirrors are great for making your home feel more spacious. In small areas large mirrors can be used to make the room look longer or wider. They are especially useful in hallways where they can be used to manipulate the perception of space by reflecting light and colour.

Having too big a dining table in your dining room can make the area shrink. To maximize space, put up roman blinds rather than curtains, and plan your storage carefully so that clutter is out of sight. This is especially important in the bedroom, because the less clutter you see, the more relaxing the room will be.

Match neutral colours on the walls with similar flooring in downstairs spaces to give the impression of space flowing from one room to another. Bright shades of carpet or distracting patterns are to be avoided.

If you follow all of these ideas then you are sure to achieve the maximum use of space in your home, and in turn attain the highest possible price for it.

Gardens are too often forgotten in the race to make the most of a property, but their condition can sometimes be the deciding factor on value. It's a common-held belief that the decision on whether or not to buy a property is made within the first few moments of viewing it.

The state of the front garden is therefore a prime consideration for anyone choosing to sell their home. Drive-by desirability is all important as first impressions really do count. Make sure your front garden is neat, tidy and easily maintained. Hanging baskets and flower troughs establish the cared-for look without creating too much work. Any lawn areas should be neatly trimmed, and trees cut back and controlled. A well-presented front door, with pots alongside it, goes a long way towards generating a sense of welcome.

The back of the house is arguably even more important than the front, as this is where the most work is likely to lie. Today's busy lifestyle means the majority of people don't have much time to spend on gardening, so creating some low maintenance areas is invaluable. Decking, paving and woodchips can be used to differentiate areas of the garden and simplify them. Any trees and hedges should be kept under control and fences maintained.

Choosing the right agent for your home

SELECTING which estate agency to sell your home (your biggest asset) can be worrying for anyone. You can make your decision more straightforward by following a few simple rules:

The first thing to do when searching for a quality estate agent is to check that they belong to a professional body like the NAEA. This is because all our members have to complete an accredited qualification on estate agency and are bound by strict rules. Selecting an agent who is one of our members will ensure your peace of mind as they offer a solid understanding of the market, and furthermore, we offer you a fair complaints procedure.

A great help when selecting an agent is reputation. If family, friends, neighbours or people you know have had a good experience with a particular agent, then this can be a great help in making your decision.

Look out for the number of 'for sale' signs and in particular 'sold' signs around your local area. This will tell you which agents are most popular, and therefore can generate more leads for you.

Advertisements for properties in the local newspapers will also tell you which agents stand out from the rest and also tell you which areas the agents cover.

The local press will help to inform you how the local market is performing. This empowers you when talking to agents, buyers and interested parties.

Make sure you get on well with your chosen agent – this will be invaluable during the whole process.

Remember, choosing a member of the NAEA offers higher standards, protection and a complaints procedure for you. You can search for NAEA members at http://www.naea.co.uk/find-agent/

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PROPERTY

No chain with this semi near King George V Park

WITHIN walking distance of King George V Park, this three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Bells Lane, Stourbridge, is for sale through Select Property Management at £129,950 with no chain.

With gas central heating, it has an entrance hall, storage and stairs off, a lounge with a wall mounted fire, kitchen with gas hob and cooker hood, ground floor shower room, three first floor bedrooms, bathroom and gardens. Call (01384 277701) or visit twww.selectsalesandlettings.com

Property

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Extended semi-detached home has four bedrooms

AN extended four-bedroomed semi-detached home in East Street, Dudley, comes with a large kitchen and four generous bedrooms. It is for sale through Taylors at £169,500.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a reception hall with stairs off, an attractive sitting room with bay window, and a dining room. The extended fitted modern kitchen has light oak style units and contrasting marble-effect working surfaces and splash-back tiling, an integrated oven with a microwave above and an integral dishwasher and a built-in five-ring hob with a cooker hood over.

Outside the property's frontage includes a pebbled area with an adjoining driveway and a garage. The substantial rear garden includes a patio area, lawn and borders.

Contact Taylors on (01384) 265265 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

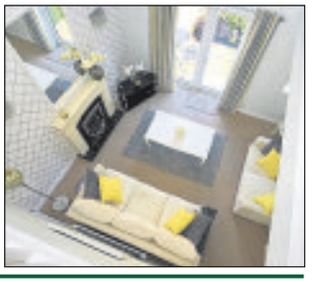
Furnishings offer on former show home

THIS stunning modern but character property in Gladstone Place, Blakedown, is beautifully and stylishly decorated throughout.

An unusual two-bedroomed dormer bungalow and former show home, built by Barratt Homes in 2013, it is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £250,000. Its fabulous furnishings can be purchased by separate negotiation if required.

In a cul-de-sac on a small development, it has an entrance hall, living room, dining kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom and shower room. Motorway access is also convenient.

Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01562 888111 or visit www.leeshaw.com



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TWO high quality 1950's former Police Houses on a large south facing plot in an acutely sought after location off Moorhall Drive - the properties currently inter-connect, reflecting their most recent use as a Charity Day Centre, but would revert to their original forms very easily indeed. Immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion - Freehold. Energy Rating: D

Guide Price £250,000-£300,000

Stanford Bridge Nr Abberley WR6 6SX

A Prime Development Opportunity with grandstand' valley views. A sizeable detached stable with FULL Planning Permission for conversion. The scheme was approved by Malvern Hills District Council on 30 April, 2014 under application number 14/00236/FUL and provides for a substantial single storey layout offering a gross internal area of 100sq.m or 1,076 sq.ft. Externally there is also plenty of amenity and ample parking provision. Worcester & Ludlow each about 15 miles distant. Freehold.

Guide Price £125,000-£175,000

Farm Road Stourport DY13 9DQ

TWO PURPOSE BUILT MODERN FLATS built approximately 12 years ago - the properties are to be sold together as one freehold lot and have been producing an attractive combined gross rental income of £10,800 per annum. 43A will have the benefit of vacant possession and 43B is currently let at £500 per calendar month. 43A - a one-bedroom ground floor garden flat. 43B - a two-bedroom duplex flat with garden plus fine rear views over the Stour Valley. Energy Ratings: No. 43a: D / No. 43b: C

Guide Price £100,000-£120,000

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, January 21, 2016

Salute to the McLaren F1

According to its creator, Gordon Murray, the McLaren F1 was "an attempt to build the best engineered driver's car ever made."

It was an attempt that clearly succeeded… according to F1 owner and serial car collector Jay Leno, it is simply "the Greatest Car of the 20th Century."

Produced between 1992 and 1998, just 106 examples were built. Of that figure a mere 64 were standard road cars, so there's only a remote chance of seeing one in the flesh.

Unless you head to the London Classic Car Show at London's ExCeL centre next month, that is. For a special display devoted to the F1 and curated by designer Gordon Murray will form one of the major attractions at the show.

No fewer than five F1s will be shown – two standard road cars, two GTR racers and a 'long tail' F1 GT road car. Last year we paid tribute to Adrian Newey with an amazing display of his world beaters; this year we are putting the spotlight on Gordon Murray and, in particular, the amazing McLaren F1 he fathered," explained Event Director, Bas Bungish. "All those involved in what's clearly going to be a very special homage to the F1 believe it will be by far the best, and most complete, insight ever put together for the public – thus something no car enthusiast will want to miss. As well as Gordon himself, we are working very closely with those at McLaren's own MSO Heritage and acknowledged F1 specialists Lanzante to ensure this fabulous display is as comprehensive and detailed as possible."

To give visitors a unique insight into the world's first 'million dollar motor' – the McLaren cost £634,500 when new – one of the road cars will be displayed with its doors, bonnet and engine cover open, while one of the racers will have its exterior panels removed to show what goes on under the skin.

The showcase will be completed with a number of F1-related artefacts including the race suit worn by JJ Lehto when he won the 1995 Le Mans 24 Hours in an F1. Also on display will be the road car's bespoke luggage, a BMW engine block, one of the TAG Heuer watches given to each owner and engraved with their car's build number and an example of the car's bespoke tool kit, made from gold-plated titanium no less.

Technical drawings, photos and special films produced by McLaren to celebrate the car's 20th anniversary its famous Le Mans 24 Hours victory in 2015 will also be shown.

"When we started work on the F1 we benchmarked all the existing supercars from Ferrari, Lamborghini, Porsche and so on, as well as aspects of cars as varied as the contemporary Honda NSX and the 1960s Lotus Elan. The idea was to better the performance, vehicle dynamics, handling and ride comfort of all of them at the same as producing a car that could, genuinely, be used every day.

No fewer than five F1s will be shown – two standard road cars, two GTR racers and a 'long tail' F1 GT road car

"We achieved it all… except perhaps the steering. The F1 gets very close but doesn't quite better the purity of the Lotus Elan's steering," said Murray.

Partly because each car took three and a half months to build and partly because it is crammed full of exotic materials including gold leaf, titanium, magnesium and Kevlar, McLaren lost money on each car made despite that heady price tag.

Those with the foresight and wherewithal to buy the car when it was new, however, couldn't have made a better investment. Last August a 1998 McLaren F1 LM sold at auction in America by Sotheby's for close to £9 million.

One of the unique features of the London Classic Car Show is The Grand Avenue, a roadway running through the centre of the exhibition hall along which classics of all different shapes and sizes are put through their paces.

It is anticipated that one of the McLarens will take to The Grand Avenue during the show, so visitors will not just be able to gaze at this remarkable British car at rest, but see and hear it in action, too.

Tickets for the London Classic Car Show are on sale now.

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Skoda's great car range

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The Citigo is Skoda's take on the most modern citycar design in the market. With the Czech brand on the bonnet, it makes value sense too.

It's an impressive compact city car which borrows the technological expertise offered by Skoda's parent company, Volkswagen. It then blends it with the value we expect from this rapidly growing Czech brand.

Those in search of a beautifully conceived, affordable and impressively space and fuel-efficient urban runabout should seriously consider it.

Go for the slightly pokier 75PS variant and Skoda includes its efficiency package (with start/stop and everything else) as standard with this engine, so the returns achieved – 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and 98g/km – are substantially better than most rivals.

Whether you opt for your Citigo with 60 or 75PS, the benefits of the efficiency package are important given that they take this car below the 100g/km barrier, making it completely free from congestion charges and delivering all kinds of tax benefits.

Fabia Compact Hatchback and Estate

Skoda ups the ante with its third-generation Fabia, introducing sharper, more assertive styling and clever technology. With more space inside, increased scope for personalisation and better efficiency from its engines, the Fabia has the basics spot on.

The Fabia has done very well for Skoda. Around 3.5 million cars have sold to date, split between 1.8 million first-generation Fabias and around 1.7 million second-generation cars. That's quite some success story. The Fabia blends a mix of abilities and can probably be described as the car that offers the most quality for your pound in its sector.

Skoda Octavia

The talented new Skoda Octavia is bigger and better value than most of its rivals, a medium-sized hatch for the price of a compact-sized one.

If you're after more performance, then you'll appreciate one of the sporty vRS models. Horses for courses you see.

And if those courses are likely to be on the rough and muddy side, then you'll be interested in the four-wheel drive system also developed for this car, primarily for a Scout estate model with additional body cladding and a raised ride height.

Skoda Superb

The aptly-named, prestigious new Skoda Superb looks better than ever, is even more polished inside and backs that up with ever better efficiency measures.

Increasingly, the big hatchback or estate car is filling a bit of a niche. There's little doubt that at this price point it's hard to buy better than the Skoda Superb if you're really not after a 4x4 or a people carrier.

It rides and handles better than any comparatively-priced SUV or MPV we can think of, it's elegantly understated and it makes sense on the balance sheet, too.

Rapid

Skoda understands its customers. Ease of ownership, value pricing and solid build are all priorities. All are satisfied by the Golf competing Rapid.

That the brand can deliver more sophistication than this is not in doubt – the larger Octavia demonstrates that. But the point here is that a significant number of customers just don't need it and the new Rapid is tailor made for them.

In addition Skoda offers the Rapid Spaceback which features a longer wheelbase and sportier look.

Yeti

Then there's the incredible, multi-award winning Yeti, a very spacious but externally compact Yeti, which strikes the perfect balance between on road performance, family orientated practicality and rugged 4x4 styling. It's available with a choice of two or four-wheel drive and diesel and petrol engines.

What makes Skoda's Yeti so appealing? It's spacious, safe, drives well, has a cool but understated image and extremely low running costs. The latest car adds a little equipment, tidies the interior and tweaks the styling but otherwise sticks to a tried and tested recipe. In truth, not a lot needed changing. The Yeti remains a class act.

All new Skodas are covered by a comprehensive, three-year (60,000 mile) parts and labour warranty, a 12-year anti-perforation warranty, plus you'll gain three-year's RAC membership cover.

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Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Brierley Hill 01384 77098
Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST—Tortoiseshell Female cat, Tuesday, January 12, Springfield area WV10. Wearing collar and microchipped. 07752 911611

SIMBA

Has been missing from Northycote Lane WV10 since 9th December. He is a 7 year old black and white neutered male with a little tear in his left ear. No collar. He is micro chipped. A vet will scan free of charge to confirm owner. Please check your sheds and garages.

Any news appreciated good or bad text or call 07968 507566.

religious notices

christadelphian

GOD'S PLAN Christ will return. January 24, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Excellent condition. Fits easily into a car boot. Ideal for shopping and holidays. Recent new batteries. Can deliver.
£275.
07905 770683.

STERLING LITTLE STAR 4-wheel scooter, charger, basket, foldable Superb; £250. 07788 833252.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY
**Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:*
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
*T&C's apply
FreeAds

2 Leisure Time

camping equipment

WANTED FOLDING CAMPER
or trailer tent, also folding poptop caravan. cash waiting any price
07870 268835

caravans / motorhomes

BAILEY RANGER 380/2 1998, good clean van, many extras, £500. 07990 902057.

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS 07776373150

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 24th January
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

FENDER SQUIRE STRAT guitar and fender champion amp, immaculate, hardly used. £160. 07887 891754. Wolverhampton.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

antique fairs

PENKRIDGE ANTIQUES AND collectors market Thursday 4th February Free entry, Free parking. Open from 9am ST19 5AP Pitches available, tel: 0794727194

mind, body & soul

massage

YouTime
Therapy & Massage Spa
19, Hereward Rise,Halesowen,B62 8AN
A unique fusion of Swedish, Thai & Japanese massage with Aromatherapy & Tai Chi relaxation.
Call 07525 126700
See us on www.youtimetherapy.co.uk or FacebookYouTime Spa

3 Home & Services

furniture

DISPLAY CABINET, as new, light cream, two glass doors, £100 ono. 0121 520 7749 (Tividale).

HSL LYNTON Catch Recliner Chair. Boucle wine, Magogany, Excellent Condtion: £200. 07788 833252.

LOUNGE SUITE
3 seater settee and 2 armchairs, beige leather with hardwood trim, cost £3,000, excellent condition, 4 years old.
£300.
Telephone 01384 375790.

MAHOGANY FIRE surround and electric fire with lights and shelves, as new, £60 ono. 01902 654419.

NICE COMFORTABLE leather sofa, blue/grey. Room urgently need. Free. 01902 336335.

PINK FULL RECLINER Chair, fully functioning. No rips/tears. Excellent condition. £100. 07788 833252.

TWO SEATER RECLINER Leather effect settee, chocolate brown, excellent condition, £60. 01902 473742.

WHITE WARDROBE, 3 drawer chest, 1 bedside cabinet, good condition, £60 ono. 07963 437427.

household appliances

FRIDGE/FREEZER, excellent condition, £85. Can deliver. Telephone 07464 026970.

items wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, fraps etc wanted. 07988 624202

BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.

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All gold 9ct up to £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• **WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY**
• Old toys • Clocks • Paintings
• **ALL SILVER** • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

items for sale

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and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

ClassifiedAds

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

PROM DRESS Purple full length strapless sequinned bodice laced back layered skirt size 10/12 cost £400.£100.00 07790725101

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation.
Wall mounts & TV setups.
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aerials

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alarms/security

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Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

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DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry.
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered. See us on Rated People.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

couriers

RAINBOW COURIERS
Parcels / Pallets, Local / Distance, Business/ Domestic.
Call: 07884 353732

double glazing

UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING Special Offer on 10 Bays £695. 07866 137656/ 0121 5315250 portwayfencing.com

flooring

UNEVEN FLOOR?
SPECIALIST FOR REPAIRING AND PREPARING FLOORS READY FOR ANY FLOORCOVERING, TILES ETC
SCREEDING, BOARDING AND REPAIRS
FREE ADVICE & ESTIMATES
MARK 07770 686 444

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed
Carriers licence held
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARGAES/ SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED
WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
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removals

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don: 07749 941319

A1L GIRL REMOVALS

Free Quotes, Free boxes, wrap & tape. With every removal. Great prices eg.
3 bed from £299.
Cleaning service and Landlord repair service available
Quick move available 24-7.
Call Lucy on 07805 670549

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MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAUTIFUL DOGS
BUSTER 5yr mostly white border x spaniel, sweet & friendly
COCO 7yr collie x kelpie
OSCAR 3yr border x lab, good with dogs and children
JAKE 14mth black/white border collie, lovely boy
GEORGE 1yr black/white pretty border collie
ARCHIE Brown/white long haired pretty border collie boy
BOB 10yr lovely golden lab
RIGBY 9yr old Beagle, gentle affectionate
ERIC 14mth white/tan neutered jack russell, only dog preferred
01588 676106
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

BICHON CROSS LHASA Puppies, vet checked 1st vaccinations, available now, £250. 01384 830271.

JACK RUSSELL puppies, Mom and Dad can be seen, tri colour, small legs, only bitches. 01384 233910.

TWO AFFECTIONATE neutrered 2/3 year old male cats looking for home together. House cats. 07847 360784.

WANTED KITTEN For elderly lady, genuine Cat lover. 01902 745868.

vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS
Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.
So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation Services for small business. Fixed Fees. Call 01902 343200

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

ONE BEDROOMED Flat, central heated, double glazed, new carpets, Newbridge, £360pcm plus bills. Call 07886 002704.

ROOM FOR RENT Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, furnished, inclusive of bills, £350pcm. No pets, no smokers. 07973 780121.

THREE BEDROOM detached house, in Alveley (WV15), DG, CH, nice and clean. 07980 208994.

WOLVERHAMPTON Finchfield, WV3, Modern well presented 3bedroomed home, smart bathroom, well appointed kitchen, lounge, conservatory, central heating, garage, gardens, No DSS/ Pets £695 pcm. K Stuart Swash 01902 710626.

houses for sale

NINE BEDROOMED private house, Blackpool, by sea, ex B&B. £90,000. For details call 07515 258118.

WILLENHALL 1bed flat, refurbished, reduced price £72,000. No chain, No agents. 01952 616756.

properties wanted

CASH NOW
WE CAN BEAT ANY PRICE
- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped

we can buy your house in **2 days**

land and commercial enquiries welcome

0800 389 6788
or 01902 628060 24/7

wolverhampton properties
Subject to terms

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERYTIME

BCH BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We buy any house
- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.
- 30 Years experience

WE ALSO BUY LAND
commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots... We will even buy your garden

Text GOAL To 88802 and we will call you back now

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Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
Houses/Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7local on
07870 341 089
Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

FIAT PUNTO, 2007, one former keeper, 43k, 5Dr, service history, metallic blue, MoT June, £1,850 o.n.o. 07923 132859.

FORD FOCUS 1.6TDCi 56 reg, 5dr, silver, long MoT, fsh, cam belt changed, £1,850 ono. 07584 232711.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 2.7 DIESEL 05 PLATE
Goodwood Green, full leather, 10 months MoT, Sat Nav, 6 track CD.
Very good condition.
£2,500.
01902 831158.

KIA CEED 1.4 2010
Ltd edition 'Strike', 1 owner, FSH, MoT'd Feb 17, Warranty till Mar 17, metallic blue, 43k, A/C, Bluetooth, Alloys, front electric windows, CD.
£4,350 ono
Telephone 07837 179477.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI, silver, 56 plate, 66,000 miles, petrol, manual, a/c, long MoT, CD player. £1,850 ono. 07496 243877.

LEXUS IS250 SEL
2006, only 19,000 miles, metallic silver, full leather/teak interior. Immaculate condition. Must be seen. Full Lexus service history.
£9,500 ono.
07961 829361.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Tourer, 2013, 7seats,12,500k , one lady owner, new condition. £7,500 ono. 01902 678849 / 07823 478968.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN 2003. white, MoT till Aug 2016. £850. ono. Good clean van. 07576 308558

FORD COUGAR V6 Manual, 1998, S Reg, silver, leather, full MoT, excellent condition. £750. 01902 847906.

FORD FOCUS LX W reg, 5dr, 1796cc, petrol, black, six months MoT, £425. 07512 044868.

FORD KA 52 plate, 26,000 miles, good condition, 12 months MoT. £450.
07772 026508.

MERCEDES ESTATE C200 Classic, auto, MoT Aug, petrol, 1998, 120,000 miles, cream leather interior. £1,100. 01902 656816.

PEUGEOT 406 GTX 2.2 HDi, saloon, fully loaded, 02, 8 months MoT, 125,898k, blue, good condition, £895 ovno. 07885 255221.

PEUGEOT 406L Turbo Diesel Saloon, R reg, one previous owner, SH, 3 months MoT, £250 ono. 01902 419012.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 54 plate, 10 months MoT, alloy, wheels, very good condition. £600 ono.
0121 530 9041.

RENAULT MEGANE 1400cc, 53 plate (2004). No MoT hence. £250. 01902 677133 / 07759 979415.

RENAULT MEGANE ESTATE Dynamique spec 1.5 DCi 2005, 99,000, SH, very good condition. Blue, 60 mpg, £30 Tax, 2 keys. £1,500. 07522 475039.

RENAULT MODUS 1.5DCi PRIVILEGE
2006, 06 reg, 3 owners, 108,000 miles, FSH, 11 months MoT, 55mpg, good tyres all round, recent service and MoT.
£1,195.
01902 753118, 07775 901378.

SABARU FORESTER, All Weather, silver, 03 reg., long MoT, fsh, lady owner, tidy car, £850 ono.
01902 791206, after 5pm.

SUBARU LEGACY ESTATE GL AWD 51 reg, blue, mot May, 70,000 miles, new clutch & fly wheel, clean car £695 ono 07949 447850.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 3dr, 1999, 57,000 miles, MoT March, Lady owner, very good condition £500 ono. 01902 761701.

VAUXHALL CORSA red, 52 plate, 1.0, 3Dr, MoT'd, starts first time, good runner, £595.
07912 869829.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SRi, 1.8 petrol, 105k miles, black Mot Till Aug, many new parts, FSH, £1,500 ono. 01902 743352.

VW POLO, 51 plate, 1.9 TDi, saloon, silver, 161k miles, diesel. MoT Aug 2016. £400. 07930 374986.

classic cars

JAGUAR XJS 4.0
1991. Only 66,000 miles. Light metallic blue. Sports auto box. Heated leather seats.
SH, 10 months MoT.
Good condition for year.
£3,500 ono.
07904 662468 (Bridgnorth).

V W SCIROCCO 1991, 1 owner, metallic grey, MoT July, FSH, £2000. ono. 07866 410286.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

tyres / wheels / exhausts

FOUR WINTER tyres 195/50/R15, excellent tread, hardly used, plus wheels to fit Ford Fiesta. £275. 07767 152652.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 4, BROMSGROVE) (SLIP ROADS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company no. 9346363) intends to make an Order on the M5 Motorway, at Bromsgrove in the County of Worcestershire, to allow street lighting works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading:-

1. to the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 4; and
2. from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 4.

The work will be carried out over two nights between 20:30 hours and 05:00 hours and is expected to start on Saturday 6 February 2016. The Order will come into force on 5 February 2016.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M5 will be signed.

For further information please contact Leonard Murray on 0121 678 8408.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company no. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5* customer rated-Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

FEMALE 64 YEARS YOUNG
Looking for companionship for days out together, must like animals, to become my Soulmate if compatable.
Please place telephone number in your letter.
Box Number P20191 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 5.5 73
Wishes to meet lady 50-3 for Friendship possible relationship.
Photo appreciated (returned)
Box Number P20192 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MAN, 64
Semi-retired wishes to meet nice, caring lady.
Varied interests.
Dudley/Stourbridge and surrounding areas.
Box Number P20187, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TALL, TRIM, ROUGH AND READY BUILDER
Aged 55, would like to meet a respectable lady that likes the mobile home life (motorhomes and caravans), to spend frequent travel in the UK and abroad.
Box Number P20200, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

YOUNG AT HEART
Male 60 years young, with modern outlook, 5ft 11, medium build, considered attractive who has and enjoys most things in life, looking for that special lady 48-58 years, slim, attractive, NS, who enjoys life.
Stourbridge and surrounding areas.
If that's you please get in touch!
Box Number P20201 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

WITHYMOOR COLTS
Charter Standard Community Status Club.
All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.
The following Teams are looking for Players to join their current squads:

U9's West require Experienced GOALKEEPER & OUTFIELD PLAYER.

U13's South require Experienced OUTFIELD PLAYER

Call Daniel, 07767 684557.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 as amended by The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Notice of Deposit of Development Plan Document
Dudley Borough Development Strategy (Publication Stage Document) Regulation 19 Publication Consultation

The Dudley Borough Development Strategy is currently being prepared to guide development within the Borough up to 2026. It consists of local planning policies and site allocations across the Borough (excluding the town Centres of Brierley Hill, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Dudley which have their own Area Action Plans) and, once adopted, will supersede the Dudley Unitary Development Plan.

Following previous consultation on a Preferred Options version in 2014 and further modifications in September 2015, this Publication stage version is the final opportunity to comment on the Dudley Borough Development Strategy before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Copies of the document are available for public inspection during normal office hours from Monday 11th January 2016 to Monday 22nd February 2016 at;

- **Dudley Council, main reception,** 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HL
  (Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5:00pm)
- **Dudley Council Plus,** 259 Castle Street, Dudley Town Centre, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1LQ
  (Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am to 12:00pm);
- **On request at the main public libraries** in Brierley Hill, Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge (opening times may vary)
- On the Council's planning website at: www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/devstrat/

Comments that relate to "the soundness" of the plan or whether the plan "complies with legal requirements" may be submitted between 11th January and 22nd February in writing to:

Planning Policy Section,
Place Directorate,
Dudley Council,
4 Ednam Road,
Dudley,
West Midlands,
DY1 1HZ

Or via e-mail to: localplan@dudley.gov.uk

Only comments made in writing and which arrive at the postal address or e-mail address specified above by 22nd February 2016 will be able to be considered by Dudley Council. Comments may also be accompanied by a request to be notified of the submission and of the Document and details of the independent examination of the Document which is to be held prior to its adoption.

For more information contact the above or telephone 01384 814136

Alan Lunt
Strategic Director of Place
Dudley Council

Buy and sell with our new look Classifieds

1. Visit our new Classified website
www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2. Call our Classified sales team on **01902 317 878**

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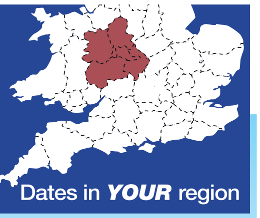

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SALLY, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box: 420247**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

SALLY, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box: 420247**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

ANN,38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

Make Love Happen in 2016

Take the plunge and respond to an advert today!

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001**

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615**

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385**

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143**

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587**

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4156561**

SLIM attractive man WLTM caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. **Text only mailbox no: 4172082**

BLACK male early 40's, slim, looking for casual adult weekend fun with broadminded, easy going discreet female. **Text only mailbox no: 4656899**

CHRIS, male, 47, single, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks female between 25 and 45 for fun and maybe more. Please get in touch. **Text only mailbox no: 5352046**

COLIN 48, kind, caring, loving, seeks kind, caring, loving, cuddly large lady, 40 to 55 for LTR **Text only mailbox no: 5308886**

45 year old male WLTM lady friend 35 to 55 who likes to enjoy life. **Text only mailbox no: 4215562**

MALE, five foot ten, stocky build, hazel eyes, just had heart broken, WLTM 40+ female for rendezvous and romantic nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420543**

MALE, 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, enjoys outdoors, mountain biking, walking, countryside, cinema, days out, seeks genuine, loving female, 29-37, for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420645**

MALE, tall, slim, health professional, honest, easy going, seeks soulmate 45-60 for happy times and maybe romance. Derby area. **Text only to mailbox no: 5356854**

JOHN, 68, six foot three, salt and pepper hair, n/s, divorced, own business, WLTM a long-term partner to travel and enjoy the good things in life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420433**

HAPPY man 59 looking for a lady to share the good times. I enjoy cinema, eating out, pubs and holidays in hot places. **Text only to mailbox no: 4618385**

LONELY and broken male seeks female to show me what love is. **Text only to mailbox no: 5345658**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

HANDSOMEguy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

ATTRACTIVE male, 54, seeks attractive female for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407915**

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

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TALL, dark, attractive guy 50, seeks attractive, tactile female for fun, excitement and lots of attention. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 314219**

SHROPSHIRE male, 50, tall, dark, attractive, fun loving, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341387**

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823**

COLIN 48, seeks cuddly large big beautiful woman 45 to 55 for LTR, love, romance, hopefully likes cuddles, kisses, holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5308886**

52YRS old guy genuine down to earth looking for Mrs right for nights in and out, walking, cooking, lives life to the full. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5331215**

MALE looking to meet a nice lady for fun times to spend with. I am 72 and would like to meet a lady between 60 and 70. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5332896**

PHILLIP, 29 years old, 5ft 11ins, stocky build, green eyes, friendly, GSOH, seeks genuine friendly n/s female for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5335424**

PHIL, 58, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420265**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551**

CARING male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

TALL attractive male, 55, would like to meet older mature women 60 to 75 for close discreet fun. You only live once. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071**

I am an easygoing guy looking for a female 55-66 for a meaningful relationship. I am very sincere and honest. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5326234**

MALE, 70, retired from NHS, seeking a lady for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420147**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135**

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709**

6FT well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun intimate nights or day with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5132460**

ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419975**

ATTRACTIVE, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful black male seek relationship with lady. N/S. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4851641**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTM dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BI curious male, slim, fit, looking for weekdays fun, looking for someone to show me the ropes, 45 to 65. **Text only mailbox no: 5378837**

DIVORCED male, young 50, own home/business, seeking Asian or East European male 18-25, I'm a generous guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420537**

MIKE bi male, divorced, own home/business, young 51, seeks male, 19-50, any nationality for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375957**

BI male, young 50, divorced, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384775**

SINGLE gay man early 60s WLTM gay/big/CD male late 20s to early 40s for good times and friendship. Gloucestershire. **Text only to mailbox no: 4667184**

MATURE gent, GSOH, sincere, many interests, WLTM a younger male, 20-40, for friendship, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420457**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841**

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

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Skeete shooting for Sam's titles

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington will defend his British and Commonwealth titles for a second time in Birmingham against new foe Bradley Skeete on March 5.

Promoter Eddie Hearn won the purse bids to stage the contest at the Barclaycard Arena under his Matchroom Boxing banner, with Skeete guided by Frank Warren.

Eggington climbed off the canvas in the second round to retain his crowns at the same venue by outpointing Dale Evans last October.

The 22-year-old is now looking to within one fight of a Lonsdale belt, with his final test likely to be vacated champion Frankie Gavin. Essington's Ben Wilkes is confirmed for the under-card and faces a tough test in a 10-round final eliminator for the English middleweight title against Peterborough's Cello Renda.

Two other title fights see Brummie Gamal Yafai challenging for Bobby Jenkinson's newly-won Commonwealth super bantamweight belt. Older brother and reigning British super flyweight champion Kal Yafai will also feature.

A battle of Birmingham will see Michael Rooney and Marcus Ffrench meet for the vacant Midlands lightweight crown.

Tickets have already become available for 'Matchroom Fight Pass' members priced at £40, £60, £100 and £150 VIP, from www.theticketfactory.com

Dudley's Ryan Aston is preparing for his shot at the big time in London tomorrow night (Friday).

Aston, 24, will undertake his first 12-rounder when he co-challenges for the vacant IBF International light middleweight title at York Hall.

Undefeated opponent and co-challenger Ahmet Patterson is the favourite on his own turf, led by promoter Frank Warren whose television channel BoxNation will broadcast the fight live.

The 28-year-old, from East Dulwich, has already lifted the English and Southern area titles but at welterweight. He's unbeaten in 16, with six stoppages.

Blue hoops still leading way at top of the table

BEN Foster may have been bested by Tim Dalton of Severn AC in the Birmingham & District Cross Country League on Saturday but the blue hoops still extended their lead at the top of the table.

The weekend's fixture was over a testing six miles of muddy twists and turns in Droitwich. Twenty DK Runners arrived on the start line, to try to consolidate their lead at the top of Division 3.

Foster was unable to add to a previous win at the venue from his last visit but was a comfortable second, finishing in 37.55 with Rob Meredith in fifth, Matt Biggs in 11th, James Wright 12th, Simon Hughes 29th and Richard Bate 30th to bring home the A team.

The B team were well placed with Rob Sannwald finishing in 33rd in 42.45. Dave Norman was 35th, Stuart Perkins 40th, Daren Thompson 45th, Simon Blizzard 54th and Darran Bishop 57th.

With DK winning on the day by 40 points they remain top of the division ahead of Northbrook AC and Sparkhill Harriers. The B team atop the B team league.

The women travelled to Gloucester where Tracy Alderson was first home in 77th in 26.49. Helen Tromans finished a single second and one place behind.

Less than 24 hours later there was another opportunity to run round a muddy field in the Midlands Masters Cross Country Championships in Wolverhampton. Open only to over-35s, five athletes from DK lined up.

James Wright claimed an age group bronze over the 8k course. There was also a team silver from Matt Biggs, Dave Norman, Simon Hughes and Darran Bishop.

Olympic stars pitch up for celebration

OLYMPIC Star Sunday football team members turned back the clock in style as they celebrated 50 years since the club's formation.

Star, who played through the 1960s to the late 1990s when they folded, were an iconic side in the Stourbridge and Lye area – and one of the most feared amateur outfits in the country.

The club's remaining players met at the Gigmill pub in Stourbridge pub to mark the milestone. The team was named Star after the local pub. Former manager and West Midlands non-league football guru, Alan Webb, told how they rose to prominence.

"I got married and moved in 1963 where there was a team called Swinford Rangers," he said.

"They played at Swan Pool Park and were part of the Coronation League in Birmingham.

"They weren't really going anywhere and the club took a bit of a hiatus, we went in and changed things. I became the manager."

Webb led the club to great success, they were three-times winners of the Kidderminster Sunday League before moving on to the more competitive Festival Premier League.

The club's home moved to The Plough in Wollaston and later to Lye Town.

Trophies

The evergreen Webb still finds himself helping out with Lye under current bosses Martin Thomas and Darren Goodall.

Star went on to appear in numerous finals and claimed a haul of trophies.

Webb's association ran through to the early 1980s, when he stepped into Saturday football and spells with Gornal Athletic, Halesowen Town, Stourbridge and Worcester City.

Webb had long since left the fold when Star caused a stir by going all the way to claim the FA Sunday Cup in 1998 – beating a St Jospeh's (Luton) side that included ex-England and Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon in the final at Peterborough's London Road. However, Star folded not long after.

Webb has strong opinions about the club's ending, but his passion and memories will remain with him forever.

"At one point we were voted in the top six Sunday teams in the country," he said. "I'm confident that our side, back in the day, would be comfortable against any of the bigger semi-pro sides around now."

Star Olympic line up for the 1965 team photo at Swan Pool Park. Alan Webb is first on the left, back row

The former players meet up again for reunion in Stourbridge 50 years later

Riders have to tough it out in muddy conditions

A RECORD number of participants – including a strong West Midlands contingent – took part in the national cyclo cross championships in Shrewsbury.

There was real strength across all the categories with ex-Olympian Liam Killeen winning the national men's title, Nikki Harris, fourth in last year's world championships, just edging out Helen Wyman on the last lap to regain the women's title and former Halesowen rider Beth Crumpton taking silver in the Women's U23.

The junior racing was significantly oversubscribed with selection based on national ranking points gained throughout the season. Two riders from Halesowen Cycling Club qualified for the Championship finals on a day where conditions were very tough.

The low lying nature of the course and the recent wet weather meant parts of the course were pure mud with no option but to run carrying the bike rather than ride.

Jamieson Blain came in 39th in the U16s in a result that would have disappointed him after a successful season both in cyclo cross and on the track and road where he has consistently finished among the leaders at national level.

In the U14s up and coming Simon Wyllie really showed what a good rider he is becoming, finishing eighth in the National U14s among a very strong field.

In a committed display of riding in tough boggy conditions, hard running through several inches of mud and adept bike handling in the technical sections Wyllie finished strongly, completing the race in 40 minutes.

Clegg setting himself an Elite target

CRADLEY teenager Max Clegg is targeting double-figure points every meeting – and that's just in the Elite League!

The 18-year-old will form a powerful spearhead with the National League Heathens alongside Ashley Morris.

The busy Yorkshireman will also ride in the Premier League for Edinburgh while holding down a reserve berth in the top flight with Wolves.

"I've achieved all the targets I've set myself. But I've got some more for this year.

"I definitely want to get double figures home and away this year. That's my Elite League target.

"I don't really have any targets for National League.

"And I don't really put myself under any pressure. What happens, happens. I enjoy my racing."

Performance not reflected in scoreline

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club first team played in the semi-final of the Pittaway cup and faced a strong Lichfield team away.

Fielding mainly reserves as several key players were unavailable, the great performance was not truly reflected in the 6-2 scoreline.

The thirds faced a strong Birmingham University team in the quarter-finals of the Townshend trophy, but lost 5-1.

Several members played in the Shropshire weekend chess congress. Keith Arkell tied for first place in the Open section. Brother Nick finished 30th on 1½.

In the major section for players graded under 160, Tony Shaw, graded 134, ended 17th with a 50 per cent score and in the minor sections, for players graded under 125, Sam Bradley, graded 121, was eighth.

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Nap hand as winning run is extended

DK 37 Whitchurch 12

DK extended their winning run to five games against a Whitchurch side that had won the corresponding game earlier in the season.

From the kick off DK immediately pinned Whitchurch in their half, exerting some early pressure, which was soon to yield a penalty, kicked into the corner by Tommy Huggins.

From the ensuing lineout DK were able to set up a drive which saw Ed Parry touch down, following a driving maul. Duncan Tomkins added the extras to increase the DK lead to 7-0.

A penalty from Tomkins' boot stretched the lead further to 10-0.

Whitchurch came back into the game and reduced the lead to 10-5 following a Joe Mullock try from a scrummage. But Tomkins added a further penalty to steady the ship.

It was 18-5 when Danny Hawkins picked up at the base and drove in for a try. Moments later he was off the pitch following a yellow card for a high tackle, and Whitchurch took advantage as blindside wing Dan Mee scored a good try off an inside pass.

DK were increasing their hold on the game after the break, and, after hooker Luke Greenwood slipped the ball back inside, Stef Shillingford raced through for a try, Tomkins added the conversion.

Shillingford added to the scoreline again with the extras coming from the boot of Tomkins.

By now the Shakespeare brothers had come on, and they almost combined for a try as Ollie found himself charging for the line but was tackled just short, with his brother Dan in support.

The scoring was finished by a good team try – Luke Greenwood touching down.

Time runs out for DK as Old Hales hang on for win

DK 2nds 0 Old Halesonians 2nds 10

WITHIN the first two minutes, Old Hales were on the attack and, after DK were penalised from a scramble to turn the ball over, Old Hales second row Louis Madican reacted quickly, took the tap penalty and forced his way over the try line to score.

Old Hales had the edge in the set pieces and their forwards made some strong runs during the first half, but the DK defence held firm. With no further scores in the first half, it finished 5-0 to Old Hales.

Old Hales backs started the second half with some excellent interplay. From a scrum deep in the Old Hales half the ball was moved to the left.

Luke Fenton made a well timed pass to Andy Holloway who made his way into the DK half before making a lovely offload to fullback Alex Herbert, joining the line at speed.

On the DK 22 metre line Herbert passed to left wing Jake Shellis who outpaced the DK defence to score. Towards the end, DK attacked the Old Hales line but time ran out for them.

Stour increase the pressure on leaders

Centre James Otutaha forces his way over for a try

Stourbridge 23 Harrogate 10

Rugby

STOURBRIDGE'S win over Harrogate in National 2 North was their seventh in the last eight games, increasing the pressure on leaders Macclesfield and Sedgley Park whose games were lost to the weather last weekend.

On a soft Stourton Park surface Stour struck first with two penalties by outside-half Rod Petty, veteran scrum half Toby Handley then breezing through a huge gap in the defences to score the opening try.

Harrogate full-back Lewis Minkin struck back with a penalty but with Stour's dominant pack camped in their 22 Harrogate first lost flanker Tom Harvey for cynically pulling down a maul, then shipped a try to Stour winger Josh Trinham.

A Stour bonus point victory looked a formality when a direct run at the defence by centre James Otutaha produced another score, but Stour were left to rue a sin-binning for a dangerous tackle by replacement Connor Nicholls and numerous missed opportunities.

With nothing to lose Harrogate bagged a well-worked consolation try by winger Luke Edwards.

MATT FINISH FOR GLASSBOYS

Braintree Town 0 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE are through to the last 16 of the FA Trophy after knocking out their Vanarama National League opponents.

They have now beaten teams from the highest level of non league football four times this season, and this victory was again well deserved.

Gary Hackett's men travel to either National League North side Bradford Park Avenue or Northern Premier League rivals Nantwich Town on February 6 for a place in the last eight.

Continued issues with the pitch at Braintree's Cressing Road ground meant Saturday's game was the first held there for several weeks. Matt Dodd – on his 29th birthday – got the all-important goal, scoring from close range early in the second half.

Stourbridge are into the last 16 of non-league football's premier Cup competition for the first time since 1972/73, and are now one win away from equalling their best ever performance of a quarter-final place in 1970/71.

The win also means that the current run of five wins represents Stourbridge's best run in the FA Trophy.

Charged

The Avanti Stadium pitch passed an early morning inspection, but players were slipping regularly on the surface and the run of the ball proved unpredictable at times.

The Glassboys had to soak up a bit of pressure early on, although the best chance for the visitors in the first half came on 16 seconds when Michael Cheek was put through but Charlie Price saved with his legs.

Chris Lait went on a surging run but his shot was charged down by the Braintree defence.

The next opportunity to score didn't come until 47 minutes when a cross by Braintree's Dan Sparks was met by Cheek who put his shot over.

The winning goal came on 56 minutes when Karl Hawley put a low cross in, the ball came off Lait and Matt Dodd directed the ball into the net off the crossbar. It could have been two when Sean Geddes saw a shot palmed away by Michael Crowe and a Kristian Green header hit the bar 11 minutes from time and bounced back out.

The final 10 minutes saw the Iron pushing forward, with Stourbridge looking to create what they could on the break.

But the Glassboys defence, led by skipper Stuart Pierpoint was resolute and the victory never really looked in danger.

A delighted Hackett said: "To come here and play like we did, particularly in the second half, was a real achievement and I am proud of all the players.

"We could have won by more at the end but It was just a great result and it's nice to be able to have a run in this competiton, the players deserve every credit."

Stourbridge face a fixture backlog because of their cup runs and the Northern Premier League have re-arranged several of the club's outstanding league games.

They will now host Marine FC on Monday, February 1 at 7.45pm, then, subject to an FA Trophy replay, will travel to Grantham Town on Tuesday, February 9.

The Glassboys will also host Ashton United on Monday, March 7 and travel to Workington on Saturday, March 19.

Birthday boy Matt Dodd celebrates after scoring the winner at Braintree

Clash won on last ball of innings

Oldswinford (120-3) lost to Enville 'A' (123-3) by three runs

A NEW-look Oldswinford side began proceedings in the WCB Indoor Cricket League with captain Harry Stanier and Owen Williams getting off to a fine start until losing the former, run-out at 40.

Mark Watts (26 no) and Williams (31 no) upped the scoring rate but on the retirement of Williams the run rate declined and a couple of wickets were lost.

Williams' return restored momentum pushing the total on to a competitive 120. In reply the experienced opening pair of Rhodri Parfitt (25 no) and Matt Branch (38 no) put the young Oldswinford bowlers under the cosh.

Enville lost their first wicket at 75 and with both openers gone, the Oldswinford bowlers got a hold on the game and the scoring rate slowed. This unnerved Enville and until the return of Matt Branch a win for Enville looked unlikely but they scraped home on the last ball.

The pick of the Oldswinford bowlers was Owen Williams' three overs 2-20, an impressive all-round performance.

Swindon (129-3) beat Cookley (44 all out) by 85 runs

COOKLEY, on their league debut, won the toss, and elected to bowl.

Swindon openers Dave Silcox (31 no) and Luke McDonnell (27 no) took advantage of some unorthodox fielding positions, but the Cookley bowlers stuck manfully to their task as Swindon piled on the runs, finishing on 129-3. Nathan Perry also made 25.

Cookley's first innings in the league did not start well, losing a wicket in the first over. Only Andy Nicholls 24 showed resistance as Cookley's innings finished after only 6.5 overs – all out for 44.

Ignoring the result, the game was played in a fantastic and enjoyable atmosphere contributed to by both teams.

Teams frustrated by frozen pitches

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club were thwarted by the weather, with all but the Men's 2nd XI and Badgers sides having games called off due to frozen pitches.

The Men's 1st XI were about set to travel to Barton when the call came to say their game was off.

The postponement meant the 2nd XI had a partisan home crowd behind them as they were held to a 3-3 draw by Aldridge & Walsall. Goals came from Mark Rigby, Adam Hill and Joe Thorn. The Badgers beat Finchfield, 3-2 with goals from Jakob Baker, Lewis Jepson and Joe Shackleton.

★★★

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